

Shultz begins visit to China

BEIJING (AP) — Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian assured U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Sunday that China would keep its door to the West open while remaining a socialist country. "The forces that favour continued growth in Sino-U.S. relations are growing in strength," Mr. Wu told a welcoming banquet in the Great Hall of the People. Mr. Shultz, the first senior U.S. official to visit China since its campaign against Western oil interests began, emphasised that "commercial ties as an important impetus for the modernisation of our respective economies." History, he said, "shows that commercial ties can pave the way for expanding relations, for developing shared interests and for stimulating the creative energies of our people. It is important that we remain open to each other as we seek to further strengthen our relationship." Mr. Shultz, who arrived Sunday for a six-day visit, said he would address the same issue at greater length in a speech Tuesday. His aides indicated that address would include a stronger plea for flexible economic and trade policies.

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جريدة تأسيس يومية تحرير عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية (الرأي)

Kuwait welcomes EC declaration

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait on Sunday welcomed the European Community's (EC) statement backing a call for convening of an international conference on the Middle East and urging an end to the 6 1/2-year-old Gulf war between Iran and Iraq. "Kuwait welcomes the collective EC support for the idea of an international conference for working out a just and durable solution to the Palestinian question and the Middle East problem," Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid told reporters after a regular cabinet session. Mr. Rashid said that in the cabinet meeting under Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, discussed the 12-nation EC declaration "which included positive elements regarding the Middle East issues. The cabinet also welcomes the interest shown by the EC states in the Iran-Iraq war and their assertion that the hostilities should be brought to an end through peaceful means. Kuwait hopes the statement heralds a new era of more active, continuous and effective interest in Middle East affairs by the EC states in view of the strong links and interests binding Europe and the Middle East, foremost among which is the close interaction between issues of security and peace in the two regions."

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Egyptian trade team touring Gulf

ABU DHABI (R) — A 40-member Egyptian trade mission began a five-nation Gulf Arab tour in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday to promote exports and invite investment. The team, representing the public and private sectors, held talks with Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce officials, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported. The tour, also taking in Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait, follows Egypt's return to membership of the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce last December after suspension following its 1979 treaty with Israel.

Aden praises ties with Oman

ADEN (R) — A South Yemeni government minister said Sunday relations between his country and neighbouring Oman had entered a new period of coordination. Officials said Justice and Religious Endowments Minister Abdul Wasei Abdul Salem was speaking after receiving an Omani delegation for talks aimed at solving a long-standing border dispute. "Relations between the two countries have gone past the normalisation period and entered a new period of coordination," he was quoted as saying.

Shamir promises more Falashas

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told protesting Ethiopian Jews on Sunday Israel was working unceasingly to bring their families to the Jewish state, his office said. Hundreds of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) demonstrated in front of Mr. Shamir's office and urged the government to increase efforts to bring their families stranded in Africa to Israel. Mr. Shamir's office said he met representatives of the protesters and told them: "We are working day and night to bring them here... we seek every way and appeal to world opinion." Some 15,000 Ethiopian Jews have settled in Israel, about 8,000 of them airlifted from Africa in 1984 in a secret Israeli project.

Levy: Syria cannot launch attack now

TEL AVIV (AP) — Chief of Staff Moshe Levy said Sunday that Syria's reentry to Beirut diminished its capability to group forces for an attack on the Jewish state. Lieutenant-General Levy also told reporters: "We don't have to feel powerless and go on alert. There is no reason to worry about Israel's security. The Syrians are now preoccupied in Beirut. That takes away from their strength. It is not harmful" to Israel.

Pakistani scientist denies bomb statement

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Pakistani nuclear scientist on Sunday denied that Islamabad had the atomic bomb and insisted that the country's nuclear programme was for peaceful purposes. Scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan made the remarks in response to an article published in Pakistani and other newspapers that claimed he said Pakistan had the bomb. Mr. Khan said in a statement that he never gave an interview to Indian journalist Kuldip Nayar, who wrote the article (See page 8).

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Iraq reports blunting three-division Iranian offensive near Basra

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said on Sunday its troops repelled an overnight attack by three divisions of Iranian Revolutionary Guards near Basra in southern Iraq.

A military communiqué said the Iranians in a "perfidious" attack rushed forward positions Saturday night and Sunday morning near the strategic port city, second largest in Iraq.

The eyes of the Iraqi fighters were wide open and vigilant to annihilate the aggressive troops and keep our defence lines clean of the enemy's fifth," said the communiqué.

In a related development, Iraq on Sunday accused Israel and the United States of supplying new warplanes and weapons to Iran, and of helping to maintain its existing warplane fleet.

The Iranian statement said the battle resulted in four smashed Iraqi brigades, 1,500 Iraqis dead or wounded and the destruction of 45 tanks and other armoured vehicles.

Tehran said the Iranians advanced into Iraqi lines west of man-made Fish Lake, located 10 kilometres east of Basra, and

captured one of Iraq's strongest fortifications.

Abdul Jabbar Muhsen, head of the Iraqi Defence Ministry's political department, said the battle ended at 0730 GMT on Sunday with the full and final defeat of the enemy.

The Iraqi Supreme Command, meeting under President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Saturday, decided to launch an attack.

Iran's war information headquarters claimed Karbala-5 cost the Iraqis 56,500 casualties. But Western intelligence officials estimate Iraqi casualties at 10,000 killed and 20,000 wounded.

Iraq, which says Karbala-5 ended in Iraqi victory since the Iranian forces failed to reach Basra, says its forces killed 60,000 Iranian soldiers, but U.S. officials estimate Iranian losses at 25,000.

Later on Sunday Iraqi President Hussein received a cable from Third Army Corps Commander Diauddin Jamal saying that Iraqi forces had repulsed the Iranian offensive and inflicted heavy casualties among Iranian troops and equipment.

Karami announces agreement on new Syrian-backed peace plan

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Lebanese Muslim leaders said they had agreed on Sunday to a new Syrian-backed plan to end the 11-year-old civil war in Lebanon.

"We wish further discussions between Syrians and Lebanese to be in the light of this agreement, which will lead us out of our impasse," Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami told reporters.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Karami's most recent proposals recognised a "distinguished" Syrian relationship with Lebanon, an official Syrian demand. He also suggested certain alterations in Muslim-Christian power-sharing arrangements.

Mr. Karami spoke after a third round of talks between top Syrian officials and Lebanese leaders that also included Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt and Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia leader Nabih Berri.

Syria hosted the talks in a bid to build on its successful crackdown on warring militias in west Beirut.

Political sources quoted by Reuter said the new agreement resembled a December 1985 peace accord signed by Christian and Muslim militia representa-

tives but which failed after stiff opposition from President Amin Gemayel and other Christian leaders.

It was not clear if Mr. Gemayel had approved the new Syrian plan, but the sources said some constitutional concessions proposed by Mr. Gemayel had been taken into account.

Muslim ministers including Mr. Karami, Mr. Berri and Mr. Junblatt have boycotted Mr. Gemayel and have not attended full cabinet meetings since the breakdown of the earlier agreement.

The last emissary from Mr. Gemayel came to Syria last week.

Mr. Karami said he and other Muslim leaders were to return to Lebanon Sunday.

"We are awaiting what will be done in the future and we will define our stand in the light of what we believe in the interest of our country," Mr. Karami said.

As the peace plan was announced in Damascus, crowds

thronged the west Beirut seafront one week after 7,000 Syrian troops rolled in to end militia

conflict.

Reaction to the plan from Christian leaders in Beirut was

not immediately available.

In west Beirut, crowds thronged the seafront, joggers darted in and out of weekend traffic and fishermen cast their lines into the Mediterranean.

In another development, police said a Mercedes-Benz laden with 150 kilograms of explosives was discovered and defused after it crossed from the mainly Christian eastern sector into west Beirut at mid-morning.

Police said the driver, a Muslim had confessed that he planned to park the carbomb near west Beirut's seaside Summerland Hotel at the instructions of the "Lebanese Forces" militia, which allegedly recruited him.

Twenty-seven people have been killed and 176 wounded in five carbomb explosions in Lebanon this year.

Syria launches 'hands and minds' campaign in Beirut; Kanaan takes on militia anarchy, page 2

PLO: Syria should take responsibility for ending 'camps war'

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) told an Arab League committee on Sunday that Syria should take responsibility for ending the "camps war" in Lebanon.

But Energy Minister Moshe Shahal of Mr. Peres' Labour Party said Mr. Shahal had raised for the first time in a cabinet meeting the possibility of ending the 28-month-old coalition government.

"The issue brings the relations of the two parties and whether they will continue together into question," Mr. Shahal told reporters following the meeting.

Mr. Shahal's right-wing Likud and Mr. Peres' left-of-centre Labour Party, forced into a coalition after an election stalemate in 1984, have squabbled over peace-making strategy for the past three weeks.

Israel army radio quoted Mr. Shahal as restating his opposition to an international conference on Sunday's cabinet debate, calling it a "Soviet-Arab idea."

Mr. Shahal was quoted by the radio as saying no agreement existed among coalition partners between Israel and the Arabs.

But Mr. Shahal, during a recent visit to Washington, called the idea a Soviet trick, saying it would serve only as a forum to try to isolate Israel and force it to separate," the radio said.

"I'm continuing with the peace process, and I haven't changed my position," said Mr. Peres, who announced during a two-day visit to Cairo that he and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak agreed to push for convening the conference by the end of the year.

"There is an argument in the cabinet, and every argument has

been resolved the nature of the talks and the terms for Soviet and Chinese participation.

Mr. Peres has said such a conference could serve as a platform to launch direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

But Mr. Shahal, during a recent visit to Washington, called the idea a Soviet trick, saying it would serve only as a forum to try to isolate Israel and force it to separate," the radio said.

Among the issues yet to be resolved are the nature of the talks and the terms for Soviet and Chinese participation.

Mr. Peres has said Israel would accept Soviet participation only if Moscow renewed diplomatic relations with Israel and allowed Soviet Jews to emigrate. China would also have to establish ties, he has said.

Officials leaving the cabinet meeting described the atmosphere as tense but said they did not expect the government to collapse over the issue.

The meeting proved once again that both parties intend to maintain the government despite the substantial differences," he has said.

Israel refuses comment on Pollard statement

BEIRUT (AP) — Cabinet ministers refused to comment on Sunday on suggestions by former American naval analyst Jonathan Pollard that orders he received to spy on the U.S. came from high-ranking Israeli officials.

Amal spokesman in Beirut, however, played down the mutiny as "insignificant" and bound to quickly fall apart," saying Mr. Hashem commands the allegiance of only 150 fighters at Marwanieh only.

"What they did is that they set up a checkpoint on the coastal highway just south of Sidon and turned back travellers to the south, telling them 'there is an uprising under way. Your safety will be imperilled if you don't go back,'" one spokesman said.

The spokesman said Mr. Hashem, 32, had lately been "firing" with the PLO, which also opposed Syria's military intervention to snuff out a week of factional fighting in Beirut's western sector.

The PLO says the Syrians stepped in to rescue Amal from defeat in the Beirut fighting at the hands of Progressive Socialist Party militia.

They said pro-Iranian Shi'ite factions in the south, including Hizbullah, also were "inactively

PLO: Syria should take responsibility for ending 'camps war'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli policeman was wounded in a clash with demonstrating Palestinian students in the West Bank on Sunday and four students were arrested by Israeli police after the incident.

AP said the policeman was stabbed and wounded by "masked Palestinians" inside a school in Jenin. It quoted Israeli officials as saying that the incident followed stone-throwing demonstrations by students at the school.

Reuter said the policeman was injured in the stonethrowing.

Israel Radio said students at a boys' school in Jenin were demonstrating against Syria's increased military role in Lebanon when paramilitary border police became involved. The students had yet been found to end the fighting between Lebanese Shi'ite Amal militiamen and Palestinians defending their camps in west Beirut and South Lebanon.

The PLO leader told the ministerial committee, which is charged with organising a ceasefire, that the siege of the camps by Amal is continuing, Mr. Kadouni told reporters.

"Now the responsibility is entirely Syrian. Syria must take responsibility. We, the Palestinians, accuse the Syrians of this situation," Mr. Kadouni said on leaving the meeting.

"The committee is still discussing how to obtain practical steps to lift the siege to allow food and medicine into the camps," he added.

The meeting of the committee composed of Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi and seven foreign ministers, came one week after 7,000 Syrian troops were deployed in Beirut.

The PLO, dismayed at the Syrian intervention intended to quell fighting between Lebanese factions, sees the Syrian move as a threat to Palestinian camps besieged by Amal and has said it wants an Arab military force to be sent in to defend them.

It wants Arab League states which gave Syria and other Arab nations a mandate 10 years ago to send peacekeeping troops into Lebanon to reconsider the move.

In a statement, Mr. Genscher called for speedy negotiations in Geneva between the superpowers to tie up an accord on the issue.

In Brussels, Lord Carrington, secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which has urged Moscow to negotiate a separate INF

accord, said Mr. Gorbachev's proposal appeared to be a "substantial step forward."

In Britain, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who is due to visit Moscow at the end of this month, had been placed in a particularly strong position to help move the superpower INF talks forward.

"I think it is a constructive step that should open the way to concluding the remaining issues leading ultimately to a treaty," Richard Perle, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, said.

Mr. Perle warned, however, that a "great many details," including how to police a treaty, would have to be agreed upon before a final accord could be reached.

He said the current round of Geneva talks, due to end Wednesday, may be extended for the group dealing with the medium-range weapons.

Belgian Foreign Minister Leo

Tindemans described the Gorbachev announcement as an "important and positive measure" that matched the wishes of his country.

In Geneva, U.S. and Soviet arms-control negotiators scheduled a special session on Monday to discuss the Gorbachev proposal.

"I think it is a constructive step that should open the way to concluding the remaining issues leading ultimately to a treaty," Richard Perle, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, said.

The scandal, which included the diversion of funds to Nicaraguan contra rebels, brought Mr. Reagan the worst crisis of his presidency.

In his weekly Saturday radio address, Mr. Reagan said he was pleased Mr. Baker had agreed to take the job as his top aide.

"He'll be here next week and we're going to be wasting no time in preparing for another two years of aggressive work," Mr. Reagan said.

Former Sen. Edmund Muskie, an opposition Democrat who served on the Tower Commission, said in an interview on Sunday that the panel's members were appalled Mr. Reagan's inability to recall details of "significant occasions" in the Iran arms sale affair.

McFarlane pleased with Tower report, page 2

Senate Republican leader Bob

Syria launches 'hearts and minds' campaign in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian troops have started to hand out pamphlets to west Beirut's war-weary citizens in a bid to widen popular support for their security drive against militia lawlessness in the mainly Muslim sector of the city.

"We in Syria see the interest of the Lebanese as the same as that of the Syrians," one leaflet said. "We feel pain when they feel pain and we rejoice when they rejoice."

About 7,000 Syrian troops rolled into the capital's western area a week ago to halt street fighting between the Shi'ite Amal Movement and leftist organisations.

Troops were seen handing out leaflets to motorists, ripping down pictures of militia chiefs and Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and posting up pro-Syrian posters.

"There will be more snipers to destroy civilisation and kill innocent people," one poster said.

For 30 minutes an artillery bat-

tle raged Saturday at the Palestinian refugee camps of Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila on the southern outskirts of Beirut, the worst fighting reported since Syria moved its troops into the western sector.

Palestinian sources said four people, including a year-old child, were wounded. They denied radio reports that the fighting was among rival Palestinians in the settlements.

In Damascus, Lebanese leaders and top Syrian officials met Saturday to review ways of mapping out the next stage of the Beirut security plan, the Syrian News Agency SANA reported.

In Christian east Beirut, Presi-

dent Amin Gemayel told French Ambassador Christian Graeff that the gunman who killed France's military attache last year had been arrested.

"I have been informed by the president that the killer was arrested," Mr. Graeff said. He did not identify the suspect.

Col. Christian Gouttiere was shot dead in front of his embassy in east Beirut on Sept. 30.

Judicial sources told Reuters the suspected killer was a Shi'ite from the Baalbek area in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

He was also being questioned over a bid to kill rightwing Falangist politician Camille Chamoun on Jan. 7, 1986, and had been sought in connection with a car bomb found and safely defused the following month in east Beirut.

The sources said they believed the alleged assassin was a member of a six-member guerrilla group.

Kanaan takes on Beirut militia anarchy

BEIRUT (R) — Clearing out gunmen who have made Beirut a byword for bloodshed, kidnapping and mayhem is a daunting task tackled with a combination of force and diplomacy by Syria's tough-minded Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan.

As Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, he has at his disposal in west Beirut 7,000 troops backed by tanks and artillery, cooperation from pro-Syrian Lebanese factions and plenty of information from a network of agents.

Brig. Kanaan is the man Syrian President Hafez Al Assad relies on to execute his strategy for controlling a turbulent, unpredictable neighbour.

An urbane, compelling man in his mid-twenties, Brig. Kanaan speaks cogently with dry touches of humour and rarely loses composure.

He displayed no regret after Syrian troops killed 18 pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) militants last week in the darkened streets of Basta, their main west Beirut stronghold.

"They are all the same to us," he said. "We repeatedly warned gunmen to withdraw while our forces were being deployed."

During battles between rival militias last month, Brig. Kanaan drove tirelessly from one combat zone to another trying to persuade west Beirut's hot-blooded

street fighters to observe a ceasefire. Their leaders were elsewhere.

Wearing a stylish business suit, he never carried a pistol. But his Mercedes was always tailed by jeeps of bodyguards.

Brig. Kanaan's Lebanon post began after Israel's 1982 invasion. He had spent nearly 10 years as head of military intelligence in central Syria, including the cities of Homs and Hama where Sunni Muslim fundamentalists were forcibly crushed in the early 1980s.

Born in the Homs region and, like Mr. Assad, a member of Syria's powerful Alawite community, Brig. Kanaan does not court popularity. His confidence in forging through the political minefields of Lebanon stems from a sense that as Syria's senior official on the spot he wields the full eight of its influence.

"I am the state — not a band of militias," he told recalcitrant Sunni fundamentalists during a Syrian-backed militia assault on the north Lebanese city of Tripoli in 1985.

His role in shaping Syrian policy in Lebanon is not clear, but he has worked doggedly to achieve Mr. Assad's political objectives.

In 1985, he negotiated the peaceful entry of Syrian troops into the Christian town of Zahlé in east Lebanon as well as their takeover of Tripoli after a bloody

showdown with Sunni militants once allied to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

He also led pro-Syrian militias in a dragnet for Soviet diplomats seized in Beirut by kidnappers opposed to the Tripoli siege. One was killed by his captors, but three were released.

Brig. Kanaan survived Syria's biggest policy setback in Lebanon since his arrival — the collapse of a peace pact signed by Falangist Druze and Shi'ite Muslim militia leaders on Dec. 31, 1985.

The accord, designed to "end Lebanon's 11-year-old civil war by giving the Muslim majority more power and enshrining closer ties with Syria, crumbled when President Amin Gemayel helped hardliners oust its Christian signatory, Elie Hobeika.

During that visit, Mr. Waite negotiated the release of several Britons held in Libya.

He has been missing since Jan. 20 in Lebanon, where he went to negotiate the release of Western hostages there.

"Before, we thought he was a religious man," Col. Qadafi said. "We respected him and he came to talk to me. I put it forward to the people's conference to discuss the problem of the release of the British people and we released them.

"In return, we agreed with him that he would help with the release of the Libyan students there and also help to improve relations between the two countries. But unfortunately, he did not respect his promise, so now we think that he might have been a spy because all the agreements he made were not respected."

Efforts to reach the two southern towns failed and telephone operators said all lines to southern Egypt were out of order.

100 reportedly hurt in Egyptian feud

CAIRO (AP) — Security authorities have arrested 15 Muslim fundamentalists who allegedly set fire to a Coptic Christian Church in southern Egypt in retaliation for what they believed to be the deliberate burning down of a mosque, a newspaper said Sunday.

In a second incident also related to sectarian strife, 17 people

were arrested in another town after trying to burn down a church and several Coptic-owned stores. The incident took place after rumours that Christians were spraying the sign of the cross on veiled Muslim girls, the newspaper and an informed source said.

Another newspaper, Sawt Al Watan or voice of the nation,

published by Nasserite Socialists, claimed that 100 were injured in clashes between students and Copts which security forces broke up with tear gas bombs. The paper also claimed 250 students and some civilians were arrested.

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Summer time to start on April 3

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will switch to summer time as of April 3, 1987 and return to winter time on Oct 2, 1987, according to an official communiqué issued by the prime minister's office on Sunday.

In the six month period of summer time, the time in Jordan will be three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) instead of two, a practice to be followed for the third consecutive year in the Kingdom. The move follows a government-wide campaign which began in 1984 with the aim of rationalising energy consumption as part of an effort to reduce the Kingdom's energy import bills.

By adopting summertime, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources hopes to save one hour's worth of energy each day by making more use of sunlight. According to the ministry, an extra one hour of daylight means a saving of 20 per cent in power

consumption for lighting in the domestic sector. As the change to summer time comes into force, people would need to switch on lights at 7 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. as there would be enough sun light not to use electric lighting.

The decision to adopt summer time was taken as part of national efforts to curb Jordan's rising bills for importing oil to generate power. It is estimated that per capita power consumption in the Kingdom is one of the highest in the developing countries.

Lights, heating in government offices

In line with the government's policy to cut down on energy consumption, Prime Minister Zaid Kifai Saturday issued a communiqué giving instructions on the use of airconditioning, central heating and lighting in government-owned offices and buildings during office hours.

The prime minister's instructions also stated that no new airconditioning equipment should be installed in government buildings and that from now on no arrangement will be made for new government buildings to have airconditioning systems, except in Aqaba and the Jordan Valley region.

The measures were taken in a bid to curb fuel consumption in all government departments in the Kingdom.

Government studying agricultural potential of land in Azraq area

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has decided to take measures for exploiting lands in Al Azraq region for agricultural purposes in view of the successful exploitation of semi-desert regions in the south-eastern regions of the country.

An official statement issued on Sunday said that Prime Minister Zaid Kifai has given instructions for the formation of a special committee grouping representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and the Department of Land and Survey to conduct a study on the exploitation possibilities in Al Azraq region, which has underground water resources and soils suitable for producing cereals and animal fodder.

The decision was taken in view of the success of a similar experiment conducted in the south and south eastern areas of Qae Al Disi and Suwan which were grown with cereals by a number of local firms, the statement said.

It said that the prime minister has requested that the committee submit its proposals and recommendations to the government on this project within two months so that action can be taken.

In April 1986, the government leased nearly 100,000 dunums of land at Sabi Al Suwan and Disi to local firms which paid 100 fils per dunum in fees for the lease each year, a nominal fee which the government said was intended to encourage people to grow more crops. The land at

Sabi Al Suwan and Disi, has abundant supplies of underground water which could be used for irrigation purposes.

Jordan has been importing 450,000 tonnes of wheat annually, nearly 75 per cent of the country's total requirements and the decision to exploit unused land was to help ensure food security for the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Agriculture, which leased the land to the local firms, last year announced that it will purchase their output at subsidised and competitive prices for a period of five years.

The investors, the ministry said, are entitled to certain privileges and will be exempted from paying income, land and any other tax related to agriculture during the five-year period.

Health Ministry to takeover Baptist hospital this week

AMMAN (J.T.) — Final preparations are underway for the Health Ministry to take over the Baptist hospital in Ajloun and the hospital will be re-opened for service soon after the final arrangements have been made, according to Health Ministry.

The ministry said that the hand over of the hospital would be in implementation of an agreement signed by the two sides towards the end of 1986, under which the ministry will take over the management of the hospital and fire more staff in addition to the

existing staff.

A report in Sawi Al Shaab newspaper Sunday said that the hand over of the hospital should have taken place on March 1 but that the procedures of registering the hospital and the land on which it stands delayed the handover. The hospital will definitely be open to the public in the coming week, it added.

The report said that the ministry paid JD 500,000 for the hospital which is supplied with up to date medical equipment.

Archaeologists from Chicago resume work at site of Eileh

AQABA (Petra) — An archaeological team from Chicago University in the United States has embarked on a two-month excavation season near Aqaba to complete unearthing the ancient town of Eileh which dates back to the Middle Ages, according to a statement issued by the Department of Antiquities.

The statement said that the excavation work, which started last year, is being carried out in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and that the site in question lies on a coastal area.

Recommendations on drugs and addiction in Jordan to be drawn up by special panel today

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Final recommendations on drugs and drug addiction in Jordan are expected to be formulated Monday following a day-long symposium on the increasing use of drugs in the country.

In the afternoon session of the seminar, held on Saturday, three working papers were presented by a sociologist, a university counsellor and a lawyer.

Dr. Sari Nasir, a sociologist at the University of Jordan, presented a lecture on the social aspects of drug addiction. He explained that drug addiction as a social problem is not presently serious in Jordan but added that if people are not cautious, it could become an uncontrollable society's productivity as a whole.

The sociologist went on to say that the Arab World is encountering difficult times politically, economically and socially. He explained that Arabs depend on communications and information means great deal.

Dr. Nasir said that one of the reasons a person begins to use drugs is because boredom. He explained that a person might join a certain group of friends taking drugs. He might start smoking hashish for fun and because he feels there is nothing else to do. Dr. Nasir went on to say that this is usually the parents' fault because they did not encourage their children to take up hobbies in their spare time. "In English, spare time is called 're-creation,' in Arabic it is called 'void' time," he added.

'Escape from reality'

The professor explained that drugs are usually used as an escape from the reality and routine of daily life. He categorised escape into two types: group and individual escape. He said a

community turns to drugs as an escape from oppression and frustration. He used Egyptian society before Nasser's revolution against King Farouk as an example.

"A child might be very unhappy at home because his parents treated improperly, often as a result of arranged or unhappy marriages. A child might turn to drugs to relieve his pain, and help him in facing life," Dr. Nasir said.

The professor said that if "we don't play our social roles as fathers and mothers properly, children will not know how to play their roles. Thus, this could lead them to delinquency and drug abuse," he noted. Dr. Nasir added that this could deteriorate society's productivity as a whole.

The sociologist went on to say that the Arab World is encountering difficult times politically, economically and socially. He explained that Arabs depend on communications and information means great deal.

"For 24 hours a day, the information media only tells us about all the horrible things and conflicts going on in the whole world. But it never tells us what to do to help make a better life for ourselves," stressed Dr. Nasir. This could destroy a person's life, he continued, turning people to drug use. The professor called on the media to give people answers and alternatives instead of always presenting depressing news.

Dr. Ata Khalidi, head of the counselling department at Yarmouk University, discussed the personalities, categories and motives of drug dealers. He classified them into the psychopathic,

Legal aspects

The final working paper presented by Mr. Saleh Jeiroudi, a

UNESCO director due here on Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — The prime minister said that no new government offices should be lit during the hours of daylight except when they are in real need of light and that central heating systems should not be turned on if the outside temperature was more than 16 degrees Centigrade. He also said that no central heating systems should be switched on before November or after March 15 each year under any circumstances.

The prime minister's instructions also stated that no new airconditioning equipment should be installed in government buildings and that from now on no arrangement will be made for new government buildings to have airconditioning systems, except in Aqaba and the Jordan Valley region.

The measures were taken in a bid to curb fuel consumption in all government departments in the Kingdom.

Mr. M'Bow will also deliver a lecture on cultural exchange between Arab and African countries during his visit to Jordan. The lecture will be given at the University of Jordan on March 8.

According to Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kazem, the UNESCO regional director in Jordan, the Amman centre will supervise UNESCO's educational operations in the Arab World, especially in the fields of computer sciences, technology and library science with a view to promoting educational services and eradicating illiteracy in the Arab region.

He said that Jordan was selected to house UNESCO's regional office in view of the Kingdom's educational experience and its continued drive to implement UNESCO programmes. The Amman office, he continued, will offer services through out the region extending from Muscat in Oman to Casablanca in Morocco.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent condoles Hawwa family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent Sunday deputised Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid to convey the Crown Prince's condolences to the Hawwa family on the passing away of retired Brigadier Jubran Hawwa.

Dajani receives Shawwa, Freij

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani Sunday received former mayor of Gaza Rashad Al Shawwa and Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij during separate meetings. During the two meetings, the conditions of the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories were discussed.

Temperatures expected to rise today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Meteorology Department sources on Sunday said that clouds will decrease gradually and that the weather will become partly cloudy with a rise in temperature. The department's director general, Dr. Ali Abada, said that the weather during February was warm and the temperatures were four degrees higher than average and that there were about 10 rainy days during that month. He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the quantities of rain which fell during February were generally below the average but that the total rainfall since the start of the season was above average.

FJCC president leaves for Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) President Hamdi Al Tabbaa' Sunday left for Saudi Arabia to take part in the meetings of the board of directors of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce which will open in Abha on Monday. During its two-day meetings, the board will discuss Arab-British trade cooperation and joint ventures between the two sides. Also to be discussed will be the forthcoming visit to Jordan by a delegation from the Scottish development centre to explore investment opportunities in Jordan and the possibility of setting up joint ventures.

Jordan marks 31st anniversary of Arabising its armed forces command

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sunday March 1 marked the 31st anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces upon orders from His Majesty King Hussein.

The King ordered the termination of the services of General John Glubb, commander of the armed forces, and said that Jordanian officers should take up the command of the armed forces in the country.

The move was significant in view of the ongoing Arab-Israeli

conflict and the dangers that Israel's occupation of Palestine posed to the Arab Nation. It also came as a manifestation of Jordan's desire to rid itself of foreign colonial domination.

Since March 1, 1956, King Hussein has continually worked towards strengthening the armed forces and has made all efforts to ensure they were provided with the most up-to-date weapons required for defending the homeland.

Visiting official outlines EC's history, current stands

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A European Community (EC) official Sunday delivered a lecture in which he outlined the community's approach to the Middle East as represented in its endorsement last week of the idea to convene an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict under U.N. auspices. The lecture also reviewed the EC's development since its inception 30 years ago.

Mr. Christopher Audland, special advisor to the EC, noted that the EC 1980 Venice declaration on the Middle East constituted a positive European approach towards solving the Arab-Israeli conflict. He was answering questions put to him by the audience following his lecture entitled "the origins, growth and prospects of the European communities."

He made a chronological review of the 12-state bloc since its

early inception in 1952 with the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).

The twelve European countries, Mr. Audland said, are members not just of one, but of three communities. First came the ECSC which was joined in 1958 by two others; the European Atomic Energy (EURATOM) and the EC which gets most of the international lignite.

The three commissions have since been unified under a system of progressive integration. Based on this, the European institutions — Parliament, Council, Commission and Court of Justice — each cover all three communities, Mr. Audland said.

The concept for forming the EC emerged in the aftermath of the two world wars which left behind devastated economies and unsteady political circumstances in western Europe, Mr. Audland continued.



Fifth Jordanian medical conference starts Wednesday

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The Alpha Health and Fitness Centre is unique with its different and varied sports services:

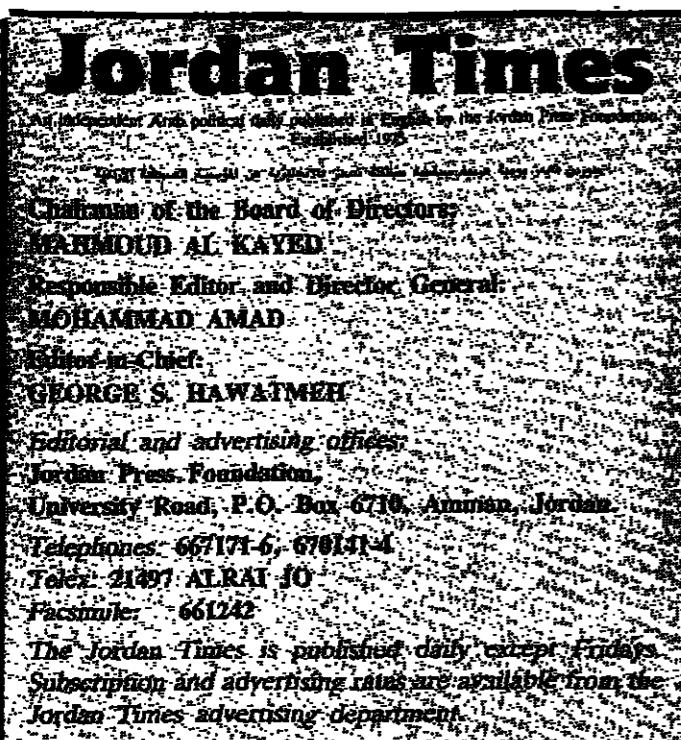
- Lawn tennis
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- Massage, employing the most sophisticated equipment:
- Cafeteria
- Electronic jogging equipment
- Electronic rowing equipment
- Sauna
- Turkish steam bath
- Summer porch... etc...

Centre for addicts proposed

Mr. Jeiroudi suggested that all crimes related to narcotics should be transferred to civil courts instead of military courts. The lawyer also called for opening a health centre which would include all forms of methods and equipment for combating drug addiction. He said that societies should be formed to collect the necessary funds to finance the establishment of this centre. He also asked for some of the laws to be amended. "Instead of life imprisonment, smugglers and pushers should be hanged," he said.

Women's sessions will be conducted under the supervision of female specialists and the men's sessions will be run by a staff of specialised and efficient male specialists.

Amman - The Tower Building - Sixth floor
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Who needs enemies?

JONATHAN Pollard, the U.S. naval intelligence analyst who confessed to spying for Israel, said in his court testimony that senior officials in the Israeli government were fully aware of his espionage activities. This flatly contradicts the Israeli government's version in which Pollard's spying is characterised as a rogue operation conducted by the Pentagon analysts and a few unauthorised officials.

Pollard's version is substantiated by a recent article in the Jerusalem Post written after a year of intensive investigation. From this investigation and Pollard's testimony, it appears that, far from being a fringe espionage ring, Pollard's spying involved the knowledge and participation of the highest levels of the Israeli government. In fact, it is almost certain that Pollard did provide Israel with over 1,000 classified U.S. intelligence documents which the Israelis used to their maximum advantage.

For example, using Pollard's information, Israel bombed, with devastating effect, the PLO headquarters in Tunisia in October 1985. Pollard also provided detailed satellite photographs of Iraqi and Syrian installations and facilities, intelligence on operations and movements of PLO units, and information and assessments of Soviet weaponry sent to Syria. In addition, as was reported last week, Israel approached India three times with information provided by Pollard on Pakistan's nuclear facilities, and proposed a joint bombing attack on Pakistan. Each time, India turned down the offer.

All this suggests, despite Israeli assertions to the contrary, that Pollard's spying was sanctioned and employed by the highest ranks of the Israeli government. Pollard's level of security clearance was so high and restricted — one of only a small number of people with access to "sensitive compartmented information" — that Israeli officials couldn't help but know that the information was not coming through official channels of the American government.

With such high-level and sensitive spying by Israel, one wonders at the seemingly mild reaction by the U.S. administration to the whole issue. U.S. prosecutors of the court case have charged that Pollard's spying has caused as serious damage to U.S. national security as any spy case in U.S. history. Yet the U.S. government has meekly accepted Israel's apology and its version of the episode. It is difficult to imagine a similar U.S. reaction to such spying by other allies, assuming for the moment that they would perpetrate such an outrageous act. Instead of criticising and restricting Israeli access to information, the U.S. has recently upgraded Israel's status as an ally, allowing special privileges in arms sales and information exchanges.

What are we to conclude from this American reticence on this whole affair? If such deception and duplicity on the part of Israel has not prompted a stronger reaction from the U.S. government, we have to wonder if anything will. Despite the fact the Israel has endangered U.S. national security, the United States, far from questioning the wisdom of its alliance with Israel, has rewarded Israel by improving its status as an ally. It might appear to an impartial observer that rewarding a country for espionage is the gravest of follies, endangering one's own security, as well as the security of other allies.

Such high-level intrigue is not unknown in the history of diplomacy, but between enemies, not allies. With the recent revelations of Israeli spying, we might justifiably ask the American government: With allies like Israel, who needs enemies?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Are we ready for conference?

ONE cannot predict the outcome of the current European Community's endeavours to help convene an international conference to resolve the Middle East question, though the Europeans are serious in their intent and efforts for holding such a conference. For the Arabs, the time is ripe to re-build their own stand and try to reunify their ranks for any eventuality. They cannot wait in the dark and continue appealing to others for help while they themselves are afraid to take any genuine action to corroborate their stand world-wide, and gain more credibility in the eyes of world nations. It is high time for the Arabs to come together in a summit meeting and chart a unified stand vis-à-vis all issues and challenges that confront them at the moment. Needless to say that solidarity and joint stand constitute the best guarantee for gaining full support from other world nations and for ensuring a successful endeavour for serving Arab national causes. The world community can never trust the Arabs if they themselves lack unity of stand and action; and the proposed international conference would never serve the purpose if the Arabs do not find a proper way of benefiting from it to the extremist end. If the conference is to be held, then the Arabs should take initial steps towards resolving internal differences, and so appear united and well prepared for any discussion at the coming conference.

Al Dustour: Israel leads U.S.

THE current dismissals and replacements of staff at the White House and at the National Security Council reflect the embarrassment which the U.S. administration has been in and the extreme damage that was inflicted on the U.S. image world-wide due to the Iranian arms deal scandal. Perhaps what is more embarrassing is the revelation through the Tower Commission's report about Israel's major role in that deal and the scandal which is now rocking the U.S. administration. Despite this revelation, we are surprised to see the American press continuing to dwell only on the role of the U.S. administration and security council in the affair, completely overlooking Israel's major contribution to the scandal. Israel's complicity in the affair is quite clear in the report and the name Israel recurs three to four times in each page of the Tower report, and yet the American press continues to mislead the American public opinion and shift the whole blame on the U.S. administration and its staff. This can point to one direction, namely that the United States, though a major world power, remains a prisoner of a small state like Israel and allows its foreign policy to be directed and steered by Israel and Zionism in the best manner that would serve the Zionist movement and its objectives.

Sawi Al Shaab: Obstructing peace

ISRAEL and its allies are involving themselves these days in finding obstacles to obstruct the convening of an international conference on the Middle East because they refuse to see such conference achieving a just and lasting peace. Israel and its allies continue to talk about preparations for the conference and the choice of parties to that conference in a bid to divert world public attention from the real objective of the conference, which is the establishment of peace in the Middle East. Jordan has all along called for the convening of this conference for the sole purpose of implementing United Nations Security Council resolutions which provide for an Israeli withdrawal from Arab land and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. On this basis, Jordan has secured support for this conference from the European Community and continues to secure other world nations' backing for this idea for the attainment of peace. Jordan's call remains for a comprehensive peace which could be achieved with the participation of all concerned parties including the Palestine Liberation Organisation in addition to the Security Council's permanent members.

Jordan needs better utilisation of energy resources

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

WITH the disclosure that Jordan's bill for fuel last year had hit the \$600 million mark and is expected to rise in the coming years, officials in Jordan have begun the search for measures to alleviate the problem. And the problem has been exacerbated by the additional findings that almost 90 per cent of Jordan's export earnings have been used to affect the fuel purchases thus contributing heavily to our trade deficit.

These startling disclosures have been fortunately coupled with sound and proper diagnosis of the problem. We are told or rather reminded by our governmental experts that in view of the climatic conditions prevailing in this country there is abundance of solar and wind energies which await fuller exploitation. We are also gratified to learn that the Ministry of Energy, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade are all cooperating in earnest to develop and make available to Jordanians and Jordanian establishments and institutions a more efficient solar system to heat our homes, offices and establishments and generate energy for other purposes as well. Measured in pure economic terms, we are told that the average family's need of hot water in Jordan is estimated to cost about JD 180 if electricity is used, JD 50 if diesel oil is used and JD 30 if solar energy is used.

So far so good. But what is seriously lacking is the articulation and adoption of ways and means to put into effect the recommendations put forward with a view to substitute fuel energy by solar or wind energy. Given the facts about the nature of man especially in traditional societies, to change hardened traditional attitudes about uses of energy legislations and information campaigns must be

uppermost on the minds of officials who are dealing with the energy problem and its huge bill.

The fact that at least 70,000 homes are using solar heaters may have given our policy makers the field of energy some comforting and encouraging news on which to build up some future hopes. But I think there is going to be no escape from the need to resort to legislations and information campaigns to accelerate the exploitation of solar energy in particular and make it mandatory at some stage or another. In view of the gravity of the problems associated with the energy issue, I believe we shall be forced to deal with it in a manner which must be effective and forceful. It would seem to be possible for example to make the issuance of licenses for constructions conditional on the deployment of solar energy. There is nothing abusive about such a measure or policy since man and his society and country would reap immeasurable benefits from it. Man will be spending less of his income on heating his home and the country would spend less on the fuel bill and in the end the trade deficit of Jordan would decline, in a proportionate degree.

Parallel with legislation or even before the resort to legislation, we certainly need an information campaign to educate our citizens about the potentialities and cost of solar energy in particular. It would be in complete order if some television programmes were dedicated on a periodic basis to the subject of alternate sources of energy. A traditional man has to see it to believe it and there is no better way to use our TV screens for that purpose. The printed media can certainly help in this effort by printing feature articles on the subject. Visits to the RSS to watch and examine the various

forms of solar energy apparatus should be encouraged and not confined to visiting dignitaries.

For our other energy needs, there is no doubt that at some future date, the exploitation of our shale oil would become possible and commercial. We have an estimated reserve of some 45 billion tonnes of good quality shale and at some point in the future when the current oil reserves in the world dwindle as they are surely expected to do, we shall find ourselves blessed by this endowment of abundant energy form. Surely the price of fuel will gradually increase as the quantities of available world reserves decrease and international demand increases. It is therefore comforting and reassuring that studies are already under way in cooperation with China and West Germany with a view to prepare the ground work for the futuristic use of shale oil. It is only a matter of time when we will be forced to develop this form of energy and use it to enhance our trade balance.

In conjunction with all these efforts, we must also start the process of rationalising energy consumption whatever its nature or form. Lowering our heating thermometers, utilisation of better insulating materials in our constructions and common sense should help a great deal in achieving this objective. The association of engineers should be asked to extend a helping hand by introducing better designed houses and by the incorporation of more advanced ideas with a view to lower energy consumption. Again one may be forced to introduce legislation in this context as well which would prescribe some minimum standards of construction geared to reduce energy consumption.

Aided by U.S. weapons, Iran maintains belligerent policy

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — At horrendous human cost, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's followers have seized another chunk of Iraq east of Basra in a six-week offensive, aided by U.S. weaponry shipped secretly to Tehran, analysts say.

Iran announced Thursday that the Karbala-5 offensive launched east of Basra on Jan. 9 has ended after dealing "one of the most severe blows to the Iraqi war machine," since the Gulf war began 6½ years ago.

The Iranians appear ready to keep gnawing away at Iraq's elaborate defences until they make a breakthrough that will achieve their strategic aim of toppling the Iraqi government.

The Iranians, mainly Revolutionary Guards who are fanatical followers of Khomeini, stormed through at least three Iraqi defence lines to move within six miles of Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

In the savage fighting, the Iranians established their second foothold in southern Iraq in less than a year. They also hold part of Iraq's Faw peninsula.

The offensive, which at its peak involved as many as 60,000 men, eventually stalled in front of the Iraqi 3rd army corps' formidable main defence line, where zeroed-in artillery rockets and mortars halted the advance.

But, as happened in February 1986 when the Iranians captured part of Faw, repeated Iraqi counterattacks failed to dislodge them.

Western intelligence sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Iranians still have some 650,000 men massed along the 1,180-kilometre battlefield. Iranian leaders have repeatedly warned their forces will strike again, stretching Iraq's defences

and wearing down its formidable military.

They have sought to dampen expectations that the end of the grueling war is in sight. The "final and fateful offensive" is yet to come, they say.

Western analysts, along with the Iraqis themselves, believe the Iranian strategy is to keep up relentless military and psychological pressure on Iraq, probing for weakness they can exploit rather than going for broke with one hammer-blow thrust.

Hans-Heino Kopietz, a Mideast specialist with the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, forecast new Iranian attacks in the central sector and the Kurdish mountains in the north to "keep the Tows. Many of the aircraft losses were due to the Hawks."

U.S. congressman Robert Torricelli, testifying this month in Washington before a House foreign affairs committee after a visit to Iraq, said Baghdad officials had admitted losing 45 to 50 aircraft during Karbala-5 along with "extremely heavy tank losses."

By comparison, Iraq lost 15 to 20 aircraft in the Faw fighting.

Iran got 2,008 Tow anti-tank missiles in the U.S. shipment last year along with nearly 250 Hawk anti-aircraft missile assemblies.

A sharp increase in attacks by Iran's badly depleted air force, long outnumbered by the Iraqis, indicated that vital spare parts for Tehran's U.S.-made F-4s and F-5s have also been delivered.

The F-4 Phantoms, backbone of Iran's air force, are also reported to have been using U.S.-made AIM-7 air-to-air missiles again, indicating replacements have been found for APQ-120 fire-control radars the planes have long lacked.

They claim another 20 warplanes were downed in other sectors and in air raids on Iranian cities.

Western intelligence officials estimate Iraqi casualties at 10,000 killed and 20,000 wounded.

The Iraqis, who outnumber the Iraqis 3-1, did not mention their own losses. The Iraqis said they killed or wounded 60,000 enemy troops.

But U.S. officials have estimated Iranian losses at 25,000 dead.

The Iranians clearly were able

to knock out more Iraqi armour and aircraft than they have in previous offensives.

Analysts attribute this in part to arms shipments approved by U.S. President Ronald Reagan in 1985 and 1986.

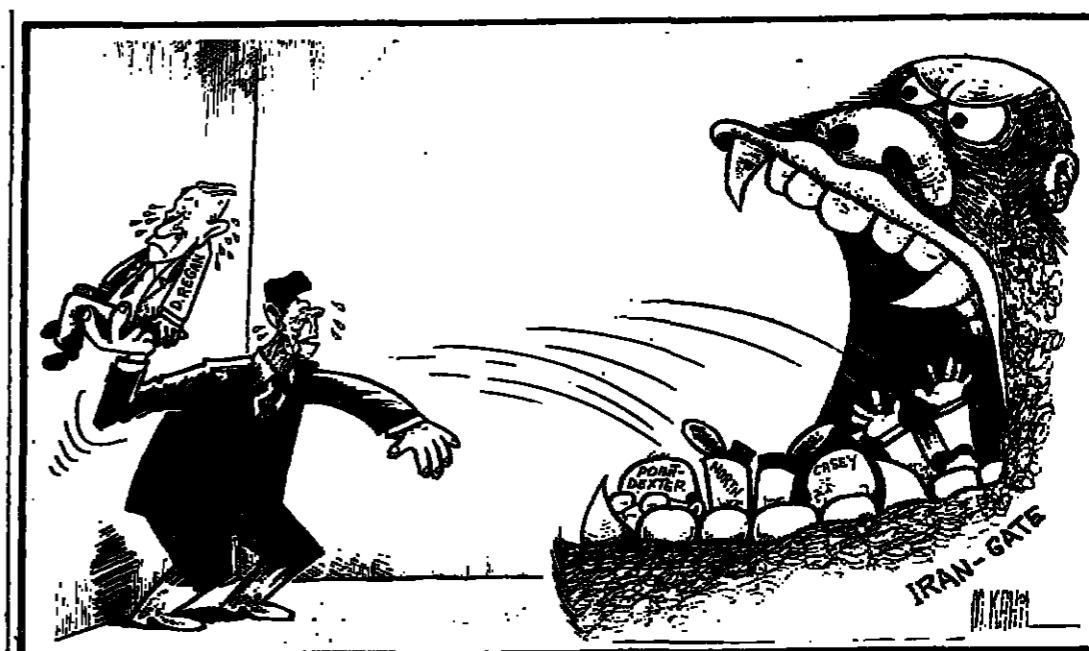
American officials have sought to play down the impact of these weapons. But Kopietz said in a telephone interview: "The Iraqis suffered very badly because of the Tows. Many of the aircraft losses were due to the Hawks."

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Iran's AH-1 Cobra gunships, hundreds of which have been grounded for lack of spare parts, were more in evidence during Karbala-5, suggesting the Iranians have overcome logistics problems for the helicopters as well.



Soviet leader appeals for support on domestic reforms

By Carol J. Williams
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — In four speeches within a month, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev has appealed to the working people of his nation and to the West for help in ensuring the success of his economic and social reforms.

He has declared his campaigns for democratisation and reconstruction irreversible, but also has acknowledged opposition to the reforms and a slow pace of advancement.

In all of his recent speeches, Gorbachev has accused the West, especially the United States, of interfering with reforms and has made a vague appeal for some manoeuvring room to make the new system work.

The extent of domestic resistance remains unclear. But nearly two years after his rise to power, Gorbachev continues to put forward the image of a new generation's leader intent on correcting social and economic wrongs without "the errors of the past" — an apparent reference to the late Nikita S. Khrushchev's ill-fated efforts to loosen economic and cultural restraints.

Apparently, Gorbachev's biggest task in stimulating the economy and raising the standard of living will be motivating workers and convincing them that their contributions are essential and will be rewarded.

The changes effected so far have served to create some immediate hardships of workers — such as more stringent checks on their job performance — and Gorbachev has acknowledged this.

"The reorganisation is affecting our short-term interests," he said last week in his speech to trade union representatives at the Kremlin. "But it meets the vital long-term interests of the working people."

"Many want a speedy social and material return," Gorbachev said. "Let us be frank, comrades. We can achieve acceleration and better quality for our entire life in only one way: Through effective and highly productive work."

He told a party gathering in the Latvian capital of Riga on Feb. 18, that those who ignore the leadership's calls for reform "could find themselves in a difficult position."

Gorbachev has been vague about the opposition, mostly characterising it as a group who have benefited from sloth and corruption and are reluctant to give up the easy way of life.

But he has also referred to honest working people with a genuine disagreement with the fundamental philosophies of his campaigns.

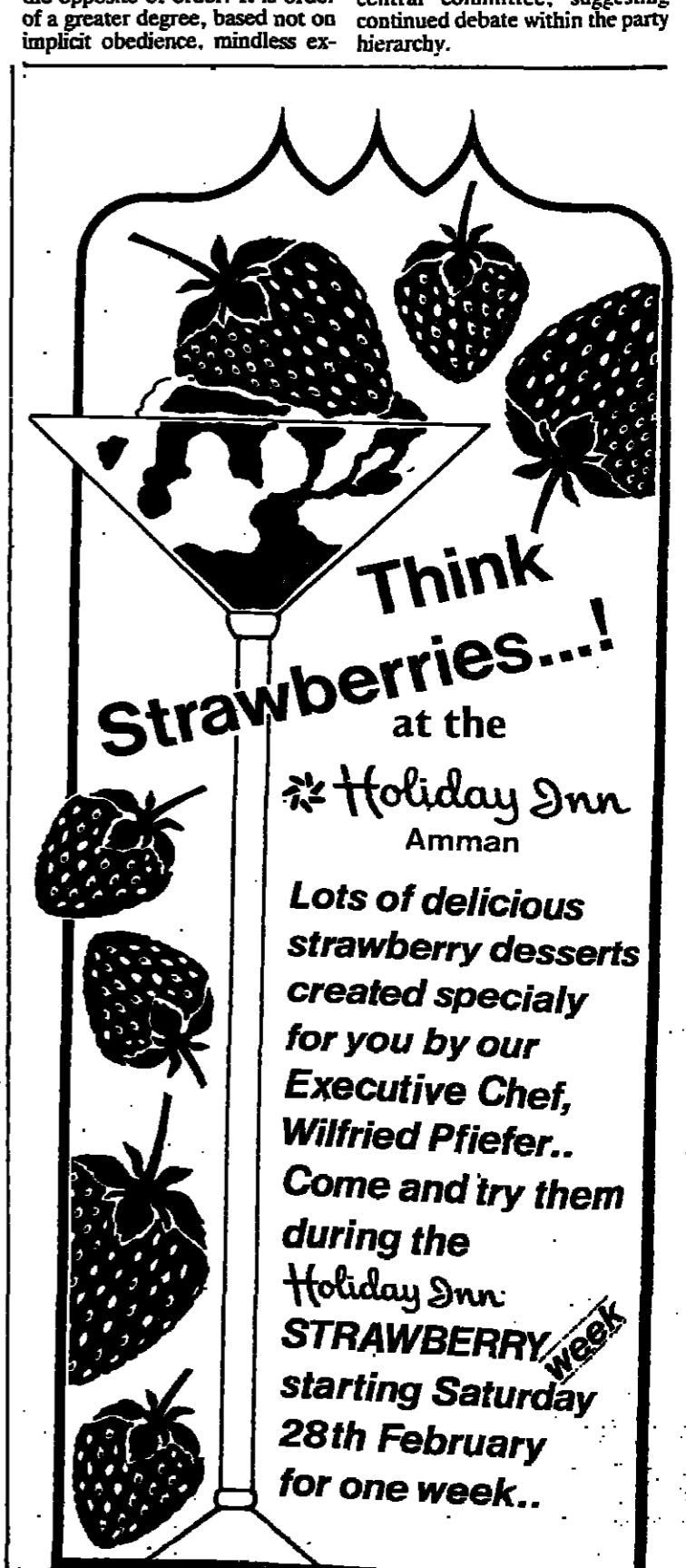
"Democratisation" is used by Gorbachev to mean a freer exchange of opinions and participation in decisions affecting the

economy rather than any fundamental change in the electoral process and distribution of power.

He has repeatedly called for more public debate on eradicating social problems and for self-criticism as a means of improving Soviet life.

But there apparently is concern that too much criticism and outspokenness could create disorder.

Gorbachev assured the trade unionists that "democracy is not the opposite of order. It is order of a greater degree, based on implicit obedience, mindless ex-



Joe in 50

Court case over abortion fuels debate in Britain

By Robert Glass

The Associated Press

LONDON — An Oxford University student's legal campaign to stop his former girlfriend from having an abortion in her fifth month of pregnancy has fanned Britain's long-simmering abortion debate.

Although the courts rejected the 23-year-old student's claim of paternal right to save his unborn child, the case was one of the most determined and highly publicised challenges to abortion ever mounted in the British courts.

Anti-abortion activists in parliament said last week's dramatic court fight, which involved a fetus at 18 to 21 weeks' development, has given new impetus to their campaign to change laws dating to 1929 that allow abortions at up to 28 weeks.

It also provoked comment over the rights and responsibilities of a father in abortion cases.

The case, given urgency by doctors' advice that legal wrangling was putting the woman's health at risk, sped in two days from the high court, to the court of appeal, to the House of Lords' Law Lords, the nation's highest court.

Three judges of the Law Lords' panel unanimously agreed with the court of appeal that the fetus was not "capable of being born alive," the key legal issue.

The Law Lords' decision Tuesday cleared the way for the 21-year-old woman, also an Oxford student, to have the abortion. But her lawyer, David Greene, would not disclose whether she went through with the procedure.

The couple were identified in court only by their initials: "Mr. C." and "Miss S."

The court of appeal based its judgment on medical opinion that a fetus, at 18 to 21 weeks, could not breathe, either on its own or with the aid of an artificial respirator.

Britain's 1967 abortion act, which made abortions widely available with the approval of two doctors, sets no limit on the stage of development at which a fetus can be aborted.

Abortions at up to 28 weeks are permitted under the 1929 infant life preservation act. The obscure law makes it a crime to cause the death of a child "capable of being born alive," and says that point is reached at 28 weeks.

Opponents of late abortions have long complained that the 1929 law fails to take into account technological advances that have greatly improved the chances of survival for premature babies. An article in the current issue of the

British Medical Journal said a fetus at 24 weeks has a 74 per cent chance of survival in optimal conditions.

The government supports reducing the time limit, but the British Medical Association opposes it, saying late abortions are necessary in some rare cases. Of the 141,101 abortions performed on British residents in 1985, only 31 were performed after 25 weeks' gestation, according to government statistics.

Doctors say late abortions also can endanger the woman. While abortion before 12 weeks — when the vast majority are done — is a simple medical procedure, a late-stage abortion can entail major surgery and is riskier.

Eight attempts to alter Britain's 1967 abortion act have failed in parliament. Critics said the Oxford student's case was a backdoor attempt to skirt parliament and change the 1967 abortion act through the courts. The case was financed by the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.

The case was the first attempt in court to prevent an abortion using the 1929 law, said Ian Kennedy, a professor of medical law and ethics at the University of London.

Although anti-abortionists lost the case, it left open the possibility that an abortion could be illegal at some stage earlier than the 28 weeks allowed under the old law, Kennedy said in an interview.

He said the man's claim of a paternal right to veto the abortion had already been rejected by the British courts in 1978.

To allow a father to override the woman's right to choose what happens to her own body, said Kennedy, "would be to reintroduce a form of slavery, albeit temporary."

Phyllis Bowman, director of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, said the father had made it clear that he would take full responsibility for the baby once it was born.

But feminist Germaine Greer, writing in the London Standard, said the father should have thought about the possibility of pregnancy in the first place if he was opposed to abortion.

"Any university student who had non-procreative sex in late 1986 without using a condom is too irresponsible to be accorded father's rights," she wrote.

According to testimony, the woman, unaware she was pregnant, had taken anti-depressant tablets and undergone two X-rays for a chest infection, posing a risk to the fetus. Doctors granted an abortion on health grounds.

Latin American grapples with poverty dilemma

By Keith Grant

Reuter

CARACAS — Few Latin American nations match the abject misery of parts of Africa and Asia. But poverty in the region is grim, getting worse and will be hard to alleviate as Latin America labours under a recession and its mountain of debt.

Economic planners say that, often overlooked, Latin America's economic woes are moving to centre stage and the prolonged debt crisis has led to a plunge in living standards.

"The region must return to a suitable rate of growth and it is neither socially nor politically possible to permit further erosion of living conditions," the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) said in a recent report.

Figures illustrating the scale of impoverishment are sketchy. But after three decades of progress since World War II, the region's per capita income dropped in the early 1980s.

Today it is back at 1978 levels. International authorities estimate that up to 130 million people or one-third of Latin America's inhabitants can be classified as below the poverty line.

The main hope is to arrest the decline in investment and restore growth, jobs and welfare. But the four-year debt crisis has limited resources available for social spending.

Colombian President Virgilio Barco, in office since August, plans to host an international conference on poverty next month. His own priorities in Colombia are poverty and drugs, and he is proposing to spend eight billion dollars on a plan for urban and rural renewal, health, home improvements and basic education.

Latin America's poor range from subsistence level peasants of Bolivia to the urban unemployed of Buenos Aires and Mexico City and slum dwellers of Rio de Janeiro and Caracas.

Some countries — notably Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay — have maintained high levels of state welfare despite recession. But Mexico offers no state help for the unemployed, who rely on charitable institutions and the church.

Ancient Syrian treasures popular in Cincinnati

By Jacquelyn S. Porth

WASHINGTON — The Cincinnati Art Museum billed it as "An Exhibition Indiana Jones Would Give His Eyeteeth to See," in a reference to the fictional archaeologist made famous by American actor Harrison Ford in the movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and its sequel. For midwestern Americans, however, it was a chance to see the significant cultural contributions of ancient Syrian civilisations.

It was an opportunity to view nearly 300 archaeological and artistic objects spanning 10,000 years of history, reflecting art from some of the earliest villages as well as major urban centres like Ebla, Mari, Ugarit and Damascus.

Gretchen Melting, coordinator of public services for the museum, said 20,529 people visited the comprehensive exhibit, "Ebla to Damascus: Art and archaeology of Ancient Syria" during its two-and-a-half month showing. The number of visitors is more than 50 per cent higher than average exhibition attendance.

Cincinnatians found the exhibit so striking that many came back to see it repeatedly.

Museum curator Daniel Walker said the frequency of repeat visits was "a testimony to the depth of the show and the amount of interest it encouraged."

He said people were drawn by the "substance" of the exhibit as well as the consistently "good art" which was made available by the Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Smithsonian Institution Travelling Exhibition Service (SITES).

The objects for the travelling show have been drawn from museums in Damascus, Aleppo, Palmyra and Deir Al Zor.

The Ebla exhibit provides a view of the earliest agricultural settlements as well as the rise of Islam. Dr. Harvey Weiss of Yale University worked with SITES to bring the exhibit to the United States. He also edited the massive 542-page exhibit catalogue con-

taining 70 essays. In the book's introduction he wrote that Ebla attempts "to reveal the historical role which Syrian cultures have played in prehistoric, early historic and medieval times."

The Ebla objects, according to Weiss, "provide a unique opportunity for Americans to examine directly a representative sample of the major and most significant artifacts and works of art from Mari, Ebla and Ugarit, and more than a dozen other prehistoric, ancient and medieval Syrian archaeological sites," because none of them have travelled west of Europe before.

Cincinnati was the fifth American city to host "Ebla to Damascus," in a seven-city two-year tour. The exhibit, which covers the historical periods from the third millennium B.C. to the first millennium A.D., opened in Baltimore and then travelled to Denver, Los Angeles and Richmond. Objects on display include stone tools, mosaics, pottery, bronze and marble statuary, frescoes, swords, gold and lapis lazuli jewellery, cuneiform tablets and ivory panels.

As curator, Walker said he had many favourite objects, but singled out the large, wide-eyed figure of a praying man, known as Shubum, from Mari. Walker said he was struck by both the size (114 centimetres tall) and quality of the sculpture. An inscription on the shoulder of the statue identifies Shubum as a land surveyor who lived 2,500 years ago. Shubum had his likeness carved and placed in a temple so that he could worship his god, Ninni-zaza, for eternity.

The exhibit also includes clay tablets with cuneiform markings. Walker said these are a highlight of the show, not just for their historical value but for their appeal "visually and aesthetically."

These deal with legal and administrative subjects such as clothing and jewellery distributed by the royal family of Ebla. One tablet is particularly significant because the 4,500-year-old tablet with Eblaite and Sumerian cuneiform inscriptions has been

identified as the oldest known bilingual dictionary in the world.

Sealed bullae, or hollow clay balls containing small clay tokens, are a significant inclusion in the exhibit. The tokens represent the inventory of a shipment of goods. All were drawn from the Habuba Kabira South archaeological site.

The exhibit is organised chronologically by cultural epoch beginning with the Prehistoric Period (8000 to 5000 B.C.). Displays representing this period incorporate flint tools and fertility figures. The Protohistoric Period (approximately 3500 to 3000 B.C.) examines the origins of cities, civilisation and writing. The Early Dynastic and Akkadian Periods (3000 to 2100 B.C.) examine the cities of Ebla and Mari. The growth of the Amorite Kingdoms is examined in the Old Syrian Period (2100 to 1600 B.C.). International politics and commerce are addressed in the Middle Syrian Period (1600 to 1200 B.C.).

The New Syrian Period (1200 to 330 B.C.) examines the Arameans, Neo-Hittites and Assyrians. The Greek and Roman presence in the geographic area is examined in the Hellenistic and Roman Periods (330 B.C. to 400 A.D.). Syria's addition to the Byzantine Empire's religious and cultural life is covered in the Byzantine Period (400 to 600 A.D.). Finally, the Islamic Period (600 to 1600 A.D.) focuses on sculpture, calligraphy, paintings and ceramics.

Curator Walker described the exhibition as not "just one great peak, but a series of peaks" and attributed its significance to the broad "sweep of history," which it covers, as well as "the variety of high cultural monuments." The exhibit is also significant, he believes, because it provides "such a good look" at what is going on today in archaeology. It is an opportunity to "see history in the making," Walker said. Most of the items in the exhibit, in fact, have been excavated in the past 50 years.

Archaeological scholars of the

past two decades, particularly at Mari and Ebla, have established Syria as part of "the cradle of civilisation." Generally, Walker said, he finds that periods of history which focus on Mesopotamian and Egyptian history are much better known and understood in the United States than Syrian historical periods. He attributes this to the fact they are "older and subject to closer scrutiny." However, wide American exposure to an exhibit of Ebla's caliber may gradually change such perceptions.

A special family day was organised in conjunction with the Cincinnati exhibit. This alone, drew 2,000 people who came to view Syrian art, listen to a story teller and learn about cuneiform writing. The Arabian Knights, a local musical group, played the oud, tabla and tambourine while the Cincinnati Zoo provided five Middle Eastern animals including a camel. The Cincinnati Debke group of the Arab-American Association presented Middle Eastern folk dances.

In addition, a four-part lecture series was held. This included David Weissberg, professor of Bible and Semitic Languages at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, speaking on "The History of Writing in the Ancient Near East." A film documenting the Ebla discoveries was presented with an introduction by Weissberg, entitled "The Royal Archives of Ebla." "Caravans and Desert Cities: Greek and Roman Syria," was the subject of a lecture by Susan Matheson, associate curator of ancient art at Yale University. Finally, University of Washington professor of history, Jere Bacharach, addressed the subject, "Palaces to Citadel: Islamic Damascus and Aleppo."

The Ebla exhibit will be at the Detroit Institute of Arts through July 3. It will open at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington July 10 for its final American showing — U.S. Information Agency.

Randa Habib's Corner

Buns for the elephants

JORDAN is full of surprises and that, certainly, is one of its charms but these surprises can turn out to be shocks. You may, for instance, wake up one day to check your mail and find that your electricity bill was much higher than usual because the price of electricity had been raised and that your garbage bags — that you never get anyway — now cost you JD 1 every month. It is also added to the bill.

Then, if you have plans to travel with your children for Easter, you realise that you have now to put aside JD 75 for the airport tax instead of the JD 50 that the five of you had to pay before. But that is not all. In the same week, you would learn that you would be taxed JD 20 for taking advantage of solar energy as you have a solar-heating system on the roof of your house.

The next morning, while renewing the work permit of your foreign helper, you have the surprise of being charged JD 150 instead of JD 50 you would have paid a few days earlier. And if you or your husband is a civil servant, then another surprise is awaiting — no more overtime allowances.

With all these new measures, the government hopes to raise quite a bit of money from the people. We understand that all of us have a responsibility to share the "difficult economic times" of the country and help in any way we can. One would think that this new burden imposed on us would help establish productive projects, but the problem is that most of this money will be used to save "white elephant projects" like the cement, the potash, the fertilisers or the wood factories, all of which have been sustaining heavy losses at the public's expense.

If the government needs money, it has to be fair and raise it directly from the people according to the income of each individual. If the scale of tax collection is adhered to and if the rich were made to pay their dues as stated by law, then the less fortunate among us would not have to suffer the strains of austerity.

In addition, a four-part lecture series was held. This included David Weissberg, professor of Bible and Semitic Languages at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, speaking on "The History of Writing in the Ancient Near East." A film documenting the Ebla discoveries was presented with an introduction by Weissberg, entitled "The Royal Archives of Ebla." "Caravans and Desert Cities: Greek and Roman Syria," was the subject of a lecture by Susan Matheson, associate curator of ancient art at Yale University. Finally, University of Washington professor of history, Jere Bacharach, addressed the subject, "Palaces to Citadel: Islamic Damascus and Aleppo."

This tale is used by Chomsky to put into perspective what he describes as the "retail terrorism" of Libya, factions of the PLO, and others, against the "wholesale terrorism" of the United States and its proxies in the Middle East, Central America and elsewhere; how public opinion is manipulated by apologists for U.S. policies who use language as a tool for deception rather than description. Thus, for example, Lebanese Shi'ites are called "terrorists" for having the temerity to resist the U.S.-financed Israeli invasion of their country, while U.S.-backed Nicaraguans who have raped, maimed and slaughtered hundreds of civilians are — in all seriousness — described as "freedom fighters" by the leader of the free world.

Chomsky notes that while Americans were fulminating over the violence allegedly inflicted by the Libyan "mad dog" in Europe, they were not particularly concerned about the terrorism committed on their own soil. According to largely ignored FBI reports on terrorism in the U.S., four out of seven domestic terrorist incidents in 1985 were attributed to extremists linked with the Jewish Defence League. "I noticed no editorials or other comments calling upon the United States to bomb Tel Aviv or Jerusalem," Chomsky observed, adding that the media reaction would no doubt have been different had the majority of terrorist acts in the U.S. turned out to have been committed by Arab-Americans with links to the PLO or an Arab country.

John Dirlik

variably denounced as pro-Arab and anti-Israel) might occasionally challenge minor aspects of the government's policies, while being careful not to question the fundamental doctrines of the state. For example, while it is unpopular but tolerable for media doves to go against the grain of mainstream journalism by pointing out that the PLO has abandoned its former rejectionist position calling for the destruction of Israel, it is inconceivable that such commentators would point out that it is the U.S. and Israel who now lead the rejectionist camp by their adamant opposition to the international consensus behind a two-state solution. Similarly, while liberal critics (in-

Problems of transplanting bone marrow

By Dr. Horst Merschheim

NO transplanted organ is willingly accepted by the recipient; it may even be rejected. Beyond this natural reaction, bone marrow itself will actively turn against its recipient. In the worst conceivable case, it literally rejects the recipient's body.

The reason for this reaction has to be seen in the purpose fulfilled by bone marrow, namely to form blood and thus generate antibodies and white corpuscles (leukocytes) that characterise the organism's immune and defence system and seek to destroy everything entering the body as a foreign substance, for example, viruses causing infections. If this system is transplanted it defensive cells necessarily turn against its new and foreign environment, trying to destroy it.

A research team at Essen University Hospital, headed by Professor Ulrich W. Schaefer, is studying solutions to this problem with the goal of making bone marrow transplants more successful. The team's research is being carried out in the framework of a Special Collaborative Programme, sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG, (German Research Association) and entitled "Experimental and Clinical Research in Leukemia and Tumours."

According to Dr. Hossam Maloum, the "syngeneic" transplantation has the best chances of success, although it is a very rare form of transplantation because it requires that the donor be the identical twin of the recipient. In the transplantation method most commonly used today, the "allogeneic" transplantation, doctors use bone marrow donated by a very close relative, in most cases by a brother or sister of the patient. But Mr. Schaefer's colleague, Dr. Hossam Maloum, explains why this method does not necessarily provide help for all patients: "Seventy per cent of all patients which are considered for bone marrow transplants do not have a relative whose immune system would match his or hers and who could donate

bone marrow."

Therefore, a solution has to be found to the pressing question of the extent to which other donors can be used. Suitable donors ought to be found in the group of blood donors who are today listed in computer systems according to their blood groups. Basically, this idea is not a thing of the future, but it would solve only one of many difficult problems.

The first problem is that donating bone marrow is by no means as simple as donating blood. Even though Dr. Mahmoud points out that the risk to the donor is small, it certainly does exist. Bone marrow is extracted from the pelvic bone in full anaesthesia. The donor has to be hospitalised for several days. Therefore, it will certainly not prove easy to find people willing to donate bone marrow to strangers. For this reason, the research team in Essen is considering the possibility of storing bone marrow substance in organ banks. It would then be possible to use the help of persons who have in principle agreed to donate an organ or who agree to have the respective organ removed after their death.

In the so-called cryopreservation, that is the preservation of bone marrow substance at -195.8° centigrade in liquid nitrogen, the cooling is so effective that even

after years of storage there will be no loss in bone marrow activity. However, this kind of preservation can only rarely be done directly after a person has died. It normally takes time until the victims of accidents are recovered, and even if a person has died of a natural cause, the law requires that organs may be removed at the earliest two hours after death. For these reasons the main problem concerning preservation is the question of how long bone marrow retains its function. The scientists found that bone marrow up to six hours after death without significant loss of viability.

Medicine uses bone marrow transplants to treat diseases affecting the blood-forming system. One of these diseases is leukemia, commonly known as cancer of the blood. Using drug therapy it is quite possible today to control leukemia, but the rate of

China's Jiang wins thrilling final at world table tennis tourney

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Reigning men's singles champion Jiang Jialiang of China kept his title in a tough battle over Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner as the Chinese won four of the five individual events in the World Table Tennis Championships here.

The 23-year-old Jiang put an end to Waldner's giant-killer reputation in a touch-and-go fourth game that went to a 24-22 finish.

Jiang gave up the first game 14-21, but then came back to it three straight 21-18, 21-11, 24-22.

The 21-year-old Waldner, the fifth seed, earlier dumped China's second-ranked Chen Longcan and third-seeded Teng Yi to make it to the finals.

The Swede's flat fore-hand returns and back-hand smashes surprised Jiang, but the champion's speed and experience prevailed as he smashed back to victory on Sunday.

The Chinese also topped women's singles and the men's and mixed doubles. China also won the team event last Wednesday.

Only South Korea's Yang Young Ja and Hyun Jung Hwa prevailed against the superpower Chinese 21-21, 21-13, 21-19 in the women's doubles.

China's fourth-seeded He Zhili denied Yang a second title in women's singles, claiming the championship in straight games 21-17, 21-19, 21-18.

Men's doubles went to Chen Longcan and Wei Qingguang over Yugoslav challengers. Their 21-17, 21-21, 22-20 returned the title to China for the first time since 1981. It had been won by the Swedes in 1985 and the Yugoslavs in 1983.

China's third-seeded mixed doubles pair of Hui Jun and Geng Lijuan topped compatriots Jiang Jialiang, the men's champ, and Jiao Zimin on Saturday. Scores were 21-14, 15-21, 21-10.

Jiang's win over Waldner was his second straight title, having gained the first at Gothenburg in Waldner's homeland in 1985.

The Swede's fighting style was a crowd pleaser in India Gandhi Stadium, but he needed more than cheers. After his initial victory, the closest he got in the second game was 18 to Jiang's 19.

In the final contest, Waldner was ahead 20-16 and looked like a winner. But Jiang recovered steadily, and a final back-hand shot from Waldner sailed over the table to give the Chinese the 24-22 victory.

In women's singles, Yang seemed weary after her successful exertions in the doubles play, but put up a valiant fight against fourth-ranked He Zhili.

Yang's powerful back-hand shots scored well, but He's defensive play was steeper, at the 21-17, 21-19, 21-18 straight score showed.

Yang had used her pen-holder grip to put down He, who used the handshake, in last year's Asian Games.

In Sunday's games, He pulled ahead for good after a 16-16 tie in the first and recovered from a five-point deficit to tie at 18-18 and win the second.

The two players pulled even 10 times in the final game, but after the 17-17 point, He's aggressive play could not be stopped.

Yang muffed her last serve and put down her paddle with a frus-

trated smile, giving He and anti-climactic victory.

The men's doubles seemed to rest on the steadiness of Chinese Chen Longcan and Wei Qingguang over emotional Yugoslavs Ilija Lupulesku and Zoran Primorac.

The fifth-ranked Slavs went down to the Chinese, seeded seven, 21-17, 12-21, 22-20, as Chen and Wei succeeded in bringing the wide-playing Slavs close to the table.

The styles of the two teams differed between play too, with Lupulesku giving a shout at each successful point and the Chinese showing barely a hint of a smile at scores.

The first game was close, but the Chinese led all the way. In the second, Primorac's tip-spin serves and smashes won it easily.

The final game see-sawed to a tie seven times. But then, with the Slavs ahead 20-19, Lupulesku made a long reach, overshot and fell to the ground. Primorac then sent a smash attempt into the net, giving the Chinese a 22-20 win.

The women's doubles ended with a come-from-behind thriller that saw the South Koreans down 8-1 to Chinese Dai Lili and Li Huifen, the top seeds.

Fifth-seeded South Korea's Yang Young Ja and Hyun Jung Hwa had already recovered from a 23-21 Chinese win in the first game, taking the second easily 21-13.

Then the real excitement came as the South Koreans began a battle back with the Chinese in command at 12-6.

Yang and Hyun took seven straight points to pull ahead, and it was all Yang's backhand and crosscourt smashes won the doubles, but failed her later in the singles against He Zhili.

Barcelona thrashed at home in major upset

MADRID (R) — League Leader Barcelona was thrashed 4-0 at home by Sporting Gijon in the biggest upset of the season in the Spanish First Division.

It was only the second defeat in 29 league matches for Barcelona, who had appeared well set to regain the championship it lost to Real Madrid last year thanks to a miserly defence which had conceded just 13 goals.

A win for Real at bottom-placed Sabadell would take it within one point of Terry Venables' side with just five matches left before the end-of-season play-offs.

Sporting's Mexican striker Luis Flores set it on the road to victory at the Nou Camp after 25 minutes Saturday night, when Andoni Zubizarreta could not hold a fierce shot from Joaquin Alonso.

Five minutes before the interval, Joaquin and Flores were again involved in a neat move which allowed Eloy Olaya to put the visitors two ahead.

Bordeaux moves to top of French soccer league

PARIS (R) — Bordeaux, returning from a two-month winter break a day before rival Marseille, moved to the top of the French First Division with a 2-0 win over Nantes.

Yugoslav striker Zlatko Vujovic scored the first in the 18th minute and set up the second for Philippe Fargeon in the 74th to give Bordeaux a timely boost before it entertains Torpedo Moscow in the first leg of the European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-finals next Wednesday.

The victory — sweet revenge for a 3-0 defeat it received in Nantes last August — put Bordeaux two points ahead of Marseille, who is playing at home against bottom-of-table Rennes.

It was also a gratifying result for forward Jose Tourre, who missed last year's World Cup finals because of a knee operation and was making his league debut for Bordeaux against his old club after a move last year from Nantes.

Defending champion Paris Saint-Germain slumped to a 3-0 home defeat against Nice and dropped to 10th place in the 20-strong table as Jose Morales, Jocelyn Rico and substitute Marc Pascali hit it with three second half goals.

French First Division Standings

| | P | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|-----------|----|----|----|---|----|----|-----|
| Bordeaux | 24 | 13 | 8 | 3 | 34 | 15 | 34 |
| Marseille | 23 | 11 | 10 | 2 | 33 | 16 | 32 |
| Toulouse | 24 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 31 | 17 | 28 |
| Auxerre | 24 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 29 | 21 | 28 |
| Monaco | 24 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 26 | 22 | 28 |

U.S. Olympic committee ends meeting without endorsing IOC plan on pros

CHICAGO (AP) — The U.S. Olympic committee's executive board ended its two-day meeting without endorsing an International Olympic Committee (IOC) proposal to liberalize participation by professionals in future Games.

The IOC has proposed that after the 1988 Games, the eligibility of professionals be determined by the international governing body of each sport.

New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, a member of the 94-member USOC executive board, said he spoke out against approving the IOC proposal because of the potential damage such action could cause to the United States.

"In certain governments, an athlete is a classification, not an athlete," Steinbrenner said after the board tabled the endorsement proposal.

"I think that's still one of the things that sets American athletes apart, that makes the public proud of them and willing to support them. Once we get the public to support the direction the Olympics are moving toward, we can adjust our own stance. I'm

confident the USOC is doing that."

Professionals, with some restrictions, have already won approval to compete in Olympic ice hockey, soccer and tennis.

"I'm surprised. I read the decision to table the endorsement to mean we are taking no position on the matter," said Anita DeFranz, a former Olympic rower who is a representative on the IOC.

Robert Helmick, USOC executive director, said the public tends to tune into the professionalism issue in terms of whether we can put NBA players on the floor for Olympic basketball games.

"That's not the entire question," he said. "The most important thing we're working towards now is getting people to understand that the term amateur does not mean athletes who do not receive support."

"The first thing we need to do is to clear away rules that force our athletes in some sports to choose between financial support and continued eligibility at the collegiate, or even the high school level," he said.

"There is a great disparity right now between what can be done to support athletes under Olympic rules and collegiate rules in the U.S."

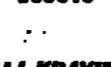
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Korean Yuh retains title

SEOUL (R) — Unbeaten World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-flyweight champion Yuh Myung-Woo of South Korea retained his title with a quick-fire first-round victory over Eduardo Tunon of Panama Sunday.

The fight was over after just two minutes 46 seconds of the scheduled 15-round bout when Greek referee Stanley Christodoulou halted the fight to spare the challenger further punishment.

Yuh uncharacteristically complained about the refereeing after the match, saying the first goal should have been disallowed for offside.

"We've got to learn our lesson from this, but losing two games out of 29 doesn't mean anything," he said.

Barcelona badly missed the driving midfield work of suspended captain Victor Munoz Saturday night, but he will be back for Wednesday's awkward UEFA Cup assignment away to Dundee United in the first leg of the quarter finals.

City Rival Espanol meanwhile kept its title hopes alive with a 2-0 win at Cadiz, which brought it to within four points of the leader in the third place.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sports city to be built in Irbid

AMMAN — Work on a JD 7 million sports city project in Irbid will begin in the coming few days, according to Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh. The minister said that the 100-dunum project is one of the biggest to be carried out by the ministry in the current year. The Prince Hassan Sports City, as it is to be called, will be an integrated sports centre with playgrounds, various installations and facilities, and an internal road system. The minister said that the project will be financed through a loan obtained from the Chinese government.

Arsenal, Tottenham face cup replay

LONDON (AP) — Liverpool's opponents in next month's Littlewoods Cup final remained undecided Sunday as Arsenal won 2-1 at Tottenham Hotspur, leaving the two sides locked 2-2 on aggregate. Second half goals by defender Viv Anderson and striker Niall Quinn cancelled out Clive Allen's early strike for Tottenham — his 38th of the season — before 37,099 fans at White Hart Lane. Because the away goals rule does not apply in the competition, the two teams, still level after 30 minutes of extra time, will meet again on Wednesday with an April 5 date with Liverpool at Wembley as the prize.

Soviets win handball championship

BOLZANO, Italy (R) — The Soviet Union won the men's World Handball Championship when it beat Czechoslovakia in a close-fought final. But both teams, joint favourites since the start of the 11-day championship, qualified for the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games as leaders of their groups. The Soviet team's 23-16 victory was ultimate proof of its supremacy during the competition which saw it win all its matches in convincing style. The Czechoslovak side had dropped a point earlier in the week by drawing with a strong Bulgarian team.

Karpov forces quick draw against Sokolov

LINARES, Spain (R) — Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov forced a quick draw with the black pieces here in the third game of his world title eliminator against fellow Soviet grandmaster Andrei Sokolov. Karpov, who won the adjourned second game, now leads the 14-game match 2-1. The first player to reach 7-1/2 points, with one for a win and 1/2 for a draw, will earn the right to challenge Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov. Karpov chose the same Caro-Kann defense that he used poorly in the first game of the match, when he was lucky to escape with a draw after allowing Sokolov good winning chances. Analysis with his seconds had shown him how to improve and Saturday he quickly cancelled out Sokolov's advantage of playing white.

Scheduled opponents beat boxing foes

PARIS (AP) — Buster Drayton of the United States and Fred Skouma of France tuned up for their title bout later this month by easily beating opponents Saturday. Drayton, the current International Boxing Federation superwelterweight champion, knocked out Mexico's Juan Alonso Villa in the second round. Skouma beat another Mexican, Tomas Garcia, when the referee stopped that bout in the fourth round. Drayton and Skouma are scheduled to meet in Cannes, France, on Mar. 27 for the IBF title. Skouma had a chance to take the World Boxing Association title in the same division last October but was knocked out by Jamaica's Mike McCallum.

Slaney sets new course record

PHOENIX (AP) — Mary Decker Slaney set a new course record while winning the women's division in the fifth annual American continental 10-kilometer while Mexico's Arturo Barrios successfully defended his men's title. Slaney, co-holder of the U.S. 10-kilometer record of 31 minutes and 38 seconds, won the race here in 32:03 to break the course record of 32:04, set by England's Wendy Sly in 1985. Brenda Webb, the defending champion and co-holder of the American 10-kilometer record with Slaney, dropped out of Saturday's race several weeks ago and Slaney said she was left without a solid challenger in the event on a flat course through the streets of residential north Phoenix.

N. Korea wins soccer tourney

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — North Korea defeated South Korea 1-0 Sunday and won the 18th annual King's Cup soccer tournament. Thailand beat Indonesia 3-2 for third place. It was North Korea's first victory in the tournament. South Korea has won the competition eight times. China, the Soviet Union and Oman also competed in the tournament, and Thailand fielded two teams.

Juventus closes gap on Italy's leader Napoli

ROME (R) — Champion Juventus moved into second place behind Napoli in the Italian First Division after a 1-0 home win over Fiorentina.

Napoli, despite the inevitable Diego Maradona goal, was surprisingly held 1-1 at home by Sampdoria, but have a four-point cushion.

Juventus, rediscovering its form after some indifferent dis-

plays earlier this season, dominated the match and had several chances to improve on Antonio Cabrini's 55th minute goal.

Juventus moved ahead of Internazionale, who was beaten 2-1 at home by City Rival Milan in a

sizing encounter.

Inter went ahead in the 26th minute with a goal from Alessandro Altobelli, but Giuseppe Gardasari and league top scorer Antonio Viridis clinched it for the visitors in the second half.

Maradona saved Napoli with a magnificent 39th minute volley from a Fernando Di Napoli cross after Sampdoria had gone ahead through Giuseppe Lorenzo five minutes earlier.

Napoli looked shaky in the opening minutes as a fearless Sampdoria pushed forward, but the Maradona goal restored confidence and it dominated the second half.

Roma gained a point away at Brescia in a 1-1 draw and eased into third place on goal difference ahead of Inter and Milan.

CONCORD
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Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Batshon

The following report summarises trading activities in American of major European and Arab currencies as well as gold prices. The writer is a foreign exchange dealer at the Arab Finance Corporation (merged with Halim Salfiti and Sons Co.).

AMMAN — Last week the U.S. dollar opened mixed. Dealers, as usual, were trying to sell the dollar, but were cautious at the same time not to force the dollar heavily down because of the central banks intervention. The dollar traded quietly between 0.3405 - 0.342 files on the JD. What led the dollar to move in this very narrow range was mainly the decisions taken by the (Group of Five) to stabilise the dollar at the present levels and their willingness to intervene through the central banks to support the dollar if dealers tried to push it lower.

Charts indicate that the dollar is bottoming at the present levels. Dealers, therefore should begin having long positions on the dollar. The expected ranges for this week are 0.340 - 0.450 files. The pound sterling gained strength from both the stability of the dollar and the weakness of other European currencies. Sterling rose higher towards 0.5325 files. Dealers

were selling the Deutschmark (D.M.), Swiss franc (S.F.) and were buying sterling because of the better interest rates, and the better North Sea oil prices.

The D.M./S.F. moved in a mixed range trading between D.M. 0.175 - 0.180 and S.F. between 0.215 - 0.220 files.

The Lebanese lira (L.L.) scored new highs since two months against the dollar because of the better political and military situation existing in the Lebanon. The lira traded between (300-250) L.L./JD.

The Syrian lira traded between (75-68) S.L./JD. The Kuwaiti dinar traded between 1.2150 to 1.2250 on the JD. The Egyptian pound traded between 0.175-0.1800 files and the Iraqi dinar traded between 0.2600 - 0.2700 files.

Due to the mixed dollar, the gold, platinum and silver traded also in a mixed range. Gold traded between (\$401-\$408) an ounce. Charts still indicate that metals should try the lower levels as \$395 an ounce for gold before moving to higher levels.

Gold prices in Amman based on the daily bulletin presented by the Jordan Jewellery Store Company are as follows:

Gold per gramme 21 carats JD (3.900 - JD 3.950)

Gold per gramme 18 carats JD (2.550 - JD 3.850)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oman, Egypt sign air travel accord

MUSCAT (R) — Oman and Egypt signed an agreement last week to step up regular air travel between their capitals, government sources said. The sources said the pact would increase flights to Muscat and Cairo by Egyptair and Gulf Air, owned jointly by Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar. They gave no further details. Egyptair currently flies to Muscat once a week.

World Bank to lend Tunisia \$150m

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank last week said it approved a \$150 million industrial and trade loan to Tunisia to aid that country's economic growth. It said the 17-year variable interest loan, two-thirds of which is available immediately, is being made to help Tunisia institute policy adjustments designed to stimulate growth of non-traditional exports and improve allocation and use of existing resources. Tunisia has decided to develop additional export revenue and substitute imports to offset a balance-of-payments deficit brought about by falling oil prices, lower tourism revenues and lower worker remittances, the bank said. It also said the country faced an expected decline in hydrocarbon exports over the long-term.

UAE, Morocco sign transport agreement

RABAT (R) — Morocco and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have signed an air transport and telecommunication agreements, the Moroccan news agency MAP reported last week. The agreement on air transport confirms a 1982 accord on starting direct flights between Morocco and the UAE. The other agreement foresees increased cooperation in telecommunications such as the opening of direct telephone lines between the two countries, MAP said.

Moroccan Transport Minister Mohammad Bouamoud said at the signing ceremony that successful cooperation boosted Moroccan-UAE trade exchanges to 700 million dirhams (about \$80 million) in 1985.

WFP gives record amount of food aid

ROME (R) — The U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) said last week it had shipped a record 2.25 million tonnes of food aid to developing countries in 1986. The previous record was just under 2.25 million tonnes in 1984 during the height of the African food crisis, the WFP said. The programme's executive director said the 1986 record was "achieved while cutting transport costs to an all-time low of just over \$50 a tonne. The reduction was largely a result of lower oil prices but also reflected wider use of charter vessels and the shipment of larger lots, he said.

Ford vehicles go on sale in UAE

DUBAI (R) — Ford Motor Company launched sales in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday for the first time since an Arab boycott against the U.S. firm was lifted last year. Mr. Jerry Henderson, vice-president for sales of the Detroit-based firm's direct market operations, said Ford would establish seven new dealerships in the Arab World by mid-1987. He gave no details. "We hope Ford has an extremely attractive range of cars and trucks to offer the Middle East customer and we plan to obtain our fair share of the Arab marketplace," he said in a statement in Dubai. Ford was the target of an Arab League boycott for two decades because of business ties with Israel.

McGraw-Hill to quit S. Africa

NEW YORK (AP) — McGraw-Hill Inc., one of the world's largest publishing and information-services companies, said last week it will end all operations in South Africa and stop selling its products to the racially segregated country. McGraw-Hill said it was negotiating to sell its South African subsidiary, McGraw-Hill Book Co. (South Africa) Ltd., to local management. McGraw-Hill's South African operations employ 51 people and had total sales of \$2.5 million in 1986, accounting for less than 0.2 per cent of the company's total sales. McGraw-Hill predicted the divestment would hurt its first-quarter earnings. The company posted a profit of \$27.68 million during that period in 1986.

Hong Kong banks raise interest rates

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong banks, after trimming interest rates last month to help cool an overheating currency, Saturday announced they were raising them because the local dollar had stabilised. The British colony's two biggest banks, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Standard Chartered Bank, said they would raise their prime lending rate — the rate on loans to their best corporate customers — by a full percentage point to six per cent on Monday. Interest rates were cut to their lowest level in 10 years at an emergency meeting of the bank association last month after speculators bought the Hong Kong dollar, expecting a change in its link of 7.8 to one U.S. dollar. The currency had strengthened to 7.748 to the dollar but it has since fallen back as the interest rate cut made holding local dollar investments less profitable.

The projected expenditure for

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's oil production fell 20 per cent in the third week of February, apparently reflecting buyer resistance to official OPEC prices, Gulf-based oil industry sources said Sunday.

They said Saudi output, excluding sales from floating storage, fell to 2.9 million barrels per day (b/d) in the third week from around 3.6 million b/d in the first two weeks.

Figures are based on exports from the kingdom's Ras Tanura and J'aynah terminals in the Gulf, which fell to 1.2 million b/d last week from a 1.8 million to two million b/d average in the first half of February.

The drop appeared to have resulted from the deferment or cancellation of some lifting nominations, the sources said.

Several Gulf Arab producers have had trouble selling crude oil at official OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) prices, averaging \$18 a barrel, as spot or free market levels slipped well below that in recent weeks.

Deputy oil ministers of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries — OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, and non-OPEC Bahrain and Oman — will meet in Bahrain on Monday to discuss the issue, the Emirates News Agency WAM said Sunday.

GCC oil ministers meeting in

Qatar agreed last Sunday to help each other to market their crude in the face of pressure for price cuts from buyers. WAM said Monday's meeting would discuss ways of implementing that decision.

The four OPEC members with

in the GCC account for nearly 40

per cent of the oil group's total output.

Qatar is pumping less than half of its 285,000 b/d OPEC quota because of marketing difficulties, the sources said.

Saudi Arabia's production fall in the third week put the kingdom's output at well below its OPEC quota of 4.133 million b/d.

OPEC states agreed in December to accept production quotas totalling 15.8 million b/d — a 7.25 per cent reduction from previous levels — and return to official prices.

The move followed turmoil on world oil markets, which saw prices dip briefly to under \$10 in mid-1986 from around \$30 in late 1985.

The sources said it was too early to establish whether Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer and the world's largest oil exporter, was returning to its former role as a "swing producer" within the 13-nation group.

Saudi production fell to a low of some two million b/d in mid-1985 before King Fahd called a halt to the policy of adjusting Saudi output to defend a given OPEC price.

The sources said exports were likely to decline steadily in March if there was no upturn in demand for OPEC oil.

Many analysts believe that only sharply lower Saudi output can enable OPEC to preserve an \$18 a barrel price in the face of slack world demand and overproduction by some other OPEC mem-

bers.

Kuwait denies overproduction

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah categorically denied Sunday reports that Kuwait has exceeded its crude oil production quota decreed by OPEC.

In an interview with the Kuwait daily newspaper Al Qabas, Sheikh Ali also denied that the OPEC ministerial council will hold an emergency meeting to discuss the group's faltering attempt to uphold oil prices at \$18 a barrel.

"Those who circulated rumours last week about Kuwait's production being beyond its quota (of 948,000 barrels per day) will be obliged to swallow it this week," Al Qabas quoted him as saying.

"The rumours are nothing more than empty words which have been based on false press reports that spoke about Kuwait's ability to exceed its production quota and suggested, accordingly, that Kuwait may do so," he added.

Kuwait was one of the 13 OPEC member states that was reported to have violated production quotas fixed at the group's ministerial council meeting in Geneva last December.

Sheikh Ali denied any oil company to say that Kuwait had sold its crude oil below the official prices as decided by OPEC.

He said that Kuwait instead had "lost a number of clients because it stuck to official OPEC prices."

Sheikh Ali said Kuwait's three local refiners and its two refineries in Holland and Denmark, as well as an international distribution network, "provide a guarantee them."

tee for the marketing of Kuwait crude oil."

He predicted that the OPEC producers will continue to be exposed to pressure by world oil companies during the coming three months "when OPEC countries will have been subjected to a test and their condition starts to improve again."

Describing as groundless reports that OPEC oil ministers would hold an emergency meeting to consider fresh measures for protecting the group's pricing system, Sheikh Ali said "none of the member states has asked for such a meeting."

In an editorial, Al Qabas lashed out against the British government and Japanese companies which it charged with exercising pressure on OPEC producers to sell their oil below the prescribed price.

"Japanese oil companies are adopting an uncordial attitude by rejecting the OPEC-decreed price, exercising pressure on Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, and refusing to sign contracts for March oil shipment at the official prices," Al Qabas said.

"The British stance, characterised with historical arrogance, has been even uglier, with the London government adopting a hostile attitude toward the OPEC countries and even toward Britain itself," Al Qabas said.

"We wonder about the underlying reasons for such pressure aimed at bringing about a collapse of the price structure, ignoring that Britain itself is an oil producer," the paper said.

The paper also attacked "irresponsible" OPEC states who "deliberately opted to side with the hostile camp." It did not identify them.

Saudi Arabian oil production declines

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Many analysts believe that only sharply lower Saudi output can enable OPEC to preserve an \$18 a barrel price in the face of slack world demand and overproduction by some other OPEC mem-

by the Qatari News Agency.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) accord of last December which had reduced the group's output from 17 to 15.8 million barrels per day to fix prices at \$18 a barrel in the three fiscal years between 1983 and 1986. The Qatari Monetary Agency has also reported success in reducing actual annual deficits to about a fourth of original estimates.

Qatari Finance and Petroleum Minister Abdul Aziz Ibn Khalifa Al Thani, conceded in a covering statement that the state could not produce a budget "because of financial difficulties due to the conditions of the oil market and the world oil economy."

The statement was distributed

streamlined and contained to the utmost," to balance the projected budget deficit, so as to reduce amounts which would have to be drawn from the state reserves as a final resort.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz said the government was determined, however that the sectors of services would not be affected in the streamlining process and that priority capital projects, that included schools, hospitals, airports and unspecified defence schemes, would also be carried out as scheduled.

Qatar's quota under the December agreement of the 13-nation OPEC countries was reduced from 300,000 to 285,000 barrels per day.

He said expenditure would be

Qatar issues budget, projects \$1.5b deficit

DOHA (AP) — Qatar, an oil-exporting state that has been buffeted by the instability of the world oil market since 1983, issued Sunday a slim budget for 1987-88, after skipping one altogether for the preceding fiscal year.

The budget, ratified by the emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, projected expenditure of 12.17 billion riyals (\$3.35 billion) and revenues of 6.74 billion riyals (\$1.85 billion), leaving a deficit of 5.74 billion riyals (\$1.5 billion).

The deficit was in the range of those the Gulf state suffered annually since a glutted oil market began pushing down prices in the early 1980's.

The projected expenditure for

is by OBU bankers, quoted in a Reuter report, that Cyprus had failed to develop as a major offshore centre.

"The aims were very realistic from the very start," he said. "The (1981) target was to attract 10 OBUs within two years and then increase the number of OBUs to around 20."

There are now 14 OBUs in Cyprus with total assets estimated by bank analysts at \$300 million.

This compares with OBUs of some \$53.5 billion in Bahrain, the main offshore banking centre in the Gulf.

Mr. Afxentious said at least two more banks may be licensed by the end of 1987.

"The operations of Cyprus OBUs are profitable and none of them has regretted coming here or contemplated leaving Cyprus or even scaling down operations," he said.

Cyprus defends offshore banking record

Mr. Afxentious described complaints that existing OBUs were strangled by regulatory red tape as an exaggeration.

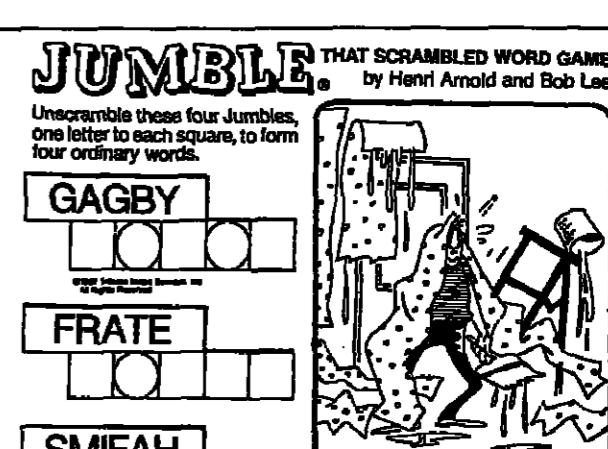
He said licensing procedures, while very thorough, were speedy.

and the need for monthly returns was not unreasonable.

The governor rejected allegations that some bankers overseas viewed Cyprus as "a shady place to deal."



"The dentist was out of knock-out gas, so he made me inhale a dog's breath instead."



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GAGBY

FRATE

SMIFAH

</

Italy faces problems over Vatican warrants

VATICAN CITY (R) — Italian magistrates face delicate diplomatic problems over how to serve arrest warrants on three top Vatican bank officials amid legal arguments over the interpretation of a 1929 treaty between the Italy and the Vatican state.

The Milan magistrates issued the warrants earlier this week against U.S. Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, president of the Vatican bank, and two of its executives Luigi Meninni and Pellegrino de Strobel, both Italians.

The three are accused of being accessories to fraudulent bankruptcy in the case of the 1982 crash of the Italian Banco Ambrosiano and are all living in the Vatican — a sovereign state within Rome.

The magistrates spent several hours Friday night locked in secret discussions over how to proceed in the case after the Vatican issued a statement expressing astonishment at the warrants and invoking article 11 of the 1929 treaty.

The article says that Italy has no right to interfere in the "central departments" of the Catholic Church.

But Justice Ministry sources said Italy could equally invoke article 22 of the pact stating that the Vatican will hand over any-

one taking refuge within its walls who is accused of crimes committed on Italian territory.

Lawyers say the argument centres on whether the Vatican bank — the Institute for Works of Religion — qualifies as a "central department" of the church.

According to a professor of ecclesiastical law at Rome University, the bank cannot be described as such a department.

"It is a financial institution, whose function is to manage money. It does not hold a central position in the ecclesiastical organisation," Professor Francesco Finocchiaro told Reporters.

The Vatican takes the opposite view.

The bank, which handles money for church bodies and organisations throughout the world, was closely associated with Banco Ambrosiano.

Ambrosiano's crash in the full glare of publicity in 1982 left \$1.2 billion of bad debt. Six weeks earlier its Chairman Roberto Calvi had been found hanging under

London's Blackfriars Bridge. The Vatican paid \$250 million to Ambrosiano creditors in 1984 in what it described as a goodwill gesture and then considered the matter closed.

Marcinkus, who has always said he had no responsibility for the crash, was continuing to work normally at the Vatican.

On Friday he met a delegation from the Argentine church to discuss arrangements for the Pope's visit there in April, but Vatican sources said he was unlikely to move outside the Iran-contra scandal.

Legal experts say that for the warrant to enter the Vatican it would have to be sent to the Justice Ministry then to the Foreign Ministry and thence to the Italian embassy to the Holy See. The Vatican has so far said it has not seen the warrants.

If it were still not accepted the magistrates might consider extradition proceedings, though there is no extradition treaty between Italy and the Vatican.

The long and delicate process is bound to cause embarrassment to both the Italian government and Pope John Paul, who up to now have enjoyed good relations, diplomatic sources said.

Poll shows Americans disapprove of Reagan presidency

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A majority of Americans disapproved of the way Ronald Reagan has handled the presidency and one-third believe he should resign, a new poll has said.

The poll, conducted by Newsweek magazine, said 53 per cent of the respondents gave Mr. Reagan a negative performance rating, nearly double his disapproval rating before the Iran-contra scandal.

The magazine said, however, that Mr. Reagan remained personally popular. By better than a three-to-one ratio, a majority of those polled said they like Mr. Reagan on a personal level.

And Newsweek said 52 per cent of those questioned believed the administration's accomplishments outweighed its failures, indicating history will look favourably upon the Reagan presidency.

The poll was conducted Friday, one day after the release of the Tower Commission report on the Iran-contra affair, which portrayed Mr. Reagan as a remote and forgetful executive unaware of what his aides were doing.

An October 1986 Newsweek poll showed the president had a 29 per cent negative rating.

The 53 per cent negative total was Mr. Reagan's worst in Newsweek polls since he took office in 1981.

Newsweek reported 56 per cent of the respondents said Mr. Reagan had surrounded himself with bad advisers and cabinet officers. Thirty-six per cent held the president accountable for the entire affair.

"More than 100 armed groups are negotiating with us at the moment." Others are waiting. Only the extremists are continuing this fight. That is about 15,000 men."

U.N. officials have estimated the number of Afghan refugees at 5.5 million, about one third of Afghanistan's population, of whom about 3.3 million are in Pakistan.

"We hope this will be the last round of negotiations with Pakistan," he added.

Mr. Najib announced a six-month unilateral ceasefire on Jan. 15 and offered a process of national reconciliation to put an

end to eight years of fighting.

"More than 30,000 emigrants and 60,000 former resistance fighters have returned to Afghanistan and joined with the government in the past month alone," he said.

"We are cautious, but if the other side acts constructively we will present a timetable for the troop withdrawal with great courage and in agreement with the Soviet government," Mr. Najib said in the interview.

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Singh, from Sangrur district of Punjab state, was arrested at the memorial grounds. The three others charged with conspiracy — Amarjeet Singh, Prem Singh and Baldev Singh Mastana — were arrested later in Punjab state. None of the accused are related.

The charges contend Karamjit Singh sought to kill Mr. Gandhi to avenge the death of a friend who was slain during anti-Sikh riots in New Delhi in 1984.

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Expert says Pakistan has a nuclear bomb

LONDON (R) — A leading Pakistani nuclear scientist was quoted as saying his country had an atomic bomb and was prepared to use it if its existence were threatened.

Dr. Abdul Qader Khan, head of a Uranium Laboratory at Kahuta, near Islamabad, was quoted in an interview published in Sunday's edition of the Observer newspaper as saying Pakistan was now among the countries that had nuclear arms.

The Observer said that since the interview took place the Pakistani government had sent it a message "purportedly from Dr. Khan" in which he denied that Pakistan had a nuclear weapon.

India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, has frequently protested about Pakistan's nuclear research.

In the interview, Dr. Khan was quoted as saying that those who had such weapons had said Pakistan could never produce one "and they doubted my capabil-

ities", adding: "But they now know we have done it."

Last November, Pakistan denied a report in the Washington Post quoting a U.S. intelligence official as saying it was only "two screwdriver turns" from a com-

pleted bomb.

The British weekly quoted Dr. Khan, whom it described as "father of the Islamic bomb", as saying that what the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency said about a Pakistani bomb was correct "and so is the speculation of some foreign newspapers."

"Nobody can undo Pakistan or take us for granted. We are here to stay and let it be clear we shall use the bomb if our existence is threatened," he was quoted as saying.

Dr. Khan expressed hope for a nuclear weapons agreement between India and Pakistan, adding: "Whatever arrangement India suggests, we are willing to accept, provided it is equally applicable to both."

Spain's National Front Party chooses new leader

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Blas Pinar was officially named leader of the new ultra-conservative political party National Front (PN) during the first congress of

delegates.

New Force (Fuerza Nueva) obtained one seat in the 1979 general elections but lost it in 1982. Mr. Pinar disbanded the party shortly afterwards.

The congress also selected a slate of candidates, headed by Mr. Pinar, for the elections to be held this year for seats in the European Parliament.

The French right-wing National Front Party of Jean-Marie Le Pen also got its start after winning seats in the European Parliament.

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